

IV.

FINANCE

AGENDA

Conference Committee on Finance
Monday, April 24, 2023, 9 a.m.– Noon
Room: TBD
Chairperson: Jeff S.
Secretary: Zenaida M.

Conference Committee Members

Panel 72

Peter B.
Chris D.
Jeff S.
Charles T.
Tandy W.

Panel 73

Rachel M.
Sarah M.
Suzanne S.

- ◆ Discussion and acceptance of trustees' Committee report.
- A. Consider requests that materials produced and maintained by AA World Services, AA Grapevine, La Viña, and General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board ("GSB") is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO performs contribution processing.
- B. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
- C. Review the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.
- D. Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member.
- E. Review Self-Support Packet.
- F. Discuss new proposed agenda items (PAI's) regarding the book, "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions."

NOTE: 1989 Conference Advisory Action

Each Conference Committee carefully consider their agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. To be more financially responsible, when a Conference Committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of cost and its impact on the budget be part of that recommendation.

2023 Conference Committee on Finance

ITEM A: Consider requests that materials produced and maintained by AA World Services, AA Grapevine, La Viña, and General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board (“GSB”) is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO performs contribution processing.

Background:

1. General Service Conference Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form-PAI 89
2. General Service Conference Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form -PAI 154

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Analyze and change all current resources produced and maintained by AA World Service, AA Grapevine, La Viña and G.S.O. communications to clarify that the General Service Board (“GSB”) is the entity which receives the voluntary A.A. contributions. These include but are not limited to; Conference Approved Literature, A.A. Guidelines, Service Material, Press Releases, Newsletters, Digital Resources (“Literature”).

Ensure all new literature, digital resources and released publications maintain the clarity and consistency of the General Service Board as the recipient of our Voluntary A.A. Contributions (“Contributions”).

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

Corrects the current inconsistent language throughout our Literature and clarifies the GSB as the recipient of our Contributions.

To return in alignment with our 9th Tradition (excerpt):

“...The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York...”

Below is a non-exhaustive inventory of Literature divided into examples which correctly and incorrectly reflect the recipient of Contributions. It is intended to showcase the vast nature of the issue within our A.A. Literature. (All references to page numbers, bullet points, Q&As, sections and paragraphs are from the online versions of the documents found on aa.org.)

The following are examples of literature that correctly state that our AA voluntary contributions are received by the General Service Board.

Tradition 9 - long form

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 69

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 71

P-16 The AA Group...Where It All Begins Page 33

F-3 Self-Support Where Money And Spirituality Mix Page 14

The Following are examples of literature that are in need of clarification.

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 12 - FAQ 4

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 30 - under Methods of Support, bullet point 2

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 70 - Top of page

under Self Support, sentence 2

under Birthday Plan

under Contribution Limit, bullet points 3 and 4

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 71 - FAQ 4 The way the answer is worded can still be confusing.

P-16 The AA Group...Where It All Begins Page 21 - bottom of page

P-16 The AA Group...Where It All Begins Page 22 - top of page

P-52 The AA Grapevine Our Meeting In Print Page 8 - under Structure and Finance paragraph 2

F-3 Self-Support Where Money And Spirituality Mix Page 7

F-3 Self-Support Where Money And Spirituality Mix Page 9 - Q&A 3

F-3 Self-Support Where Money And Spirituality Mix Page 10 - Q&A 2

F-3 Self-Support Where Money And Spirituality Mix Page 11 - Q&A 2

F-3 Self-Support Where Money And Spirituality Mix Page 13 - charts

F-6 Your A.A. General Service Office - page 6, numbers 3 and 7

FV-19 Flyers on Self-Support Page 7: F-19F Please Post 'Heart of the Fellowship flier' under Contributions

FV-19 Flyers on Self-Support Page 8: F-19G Self-Support Talking Points numbers: 8, 9 and 11

F-42 Self-Support Page 2 - under Some Facts, bullet point 1

F-96 The AA Group Treasurer Page 5 Title "G.S.O." is wrong

F-203 Your Seventh Tradition Contribution - top of page

MG-15 AA Guidelines on Finance Check the whole document for inconsistencies.

aa.org website - contributions and self-support page, contribute to A.A. Birthday Plan

aa.org website - contributions and self-support page, supporting AA's services bullet point 4

aa.org website - contributions and self-support page, FAQs 1, 2 and 4

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

That all current and future Literature be uniformed in communicating that the GSB is the entity which receives the Contributions. And that the General Service Office provides services for which some of the Contributions are budgeted and utilized.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Kathy M [REDACTED]

Home Group - Lakeside Group in Rockwall, TX

(7) Final comments:

General Service Conference (G.S.C.)
Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Consider changing; throughout our literature, service pieces, guidelines, reports and on the aa.org website; any place where it is found to be unclear that our voluntary AA contributions are made payable to the General Service Board although they are sent to the General Service office for processing.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

This motion would address any confusion in explaining how the service structure is set up and to whom our AA voluntary contributions are made payable. There are many places in our literature that "General Service Office" is written and it should say "General Service Board" when referring to whom our contributions are made payable. This can make it unclear as to which service entity our contributions are made and may imply that these service entities are one entity and that they can be referred to interchangeably.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the 73rd General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

I, Nelson E., a member and Alternate GSR of the Azalea Group in Tyler, TX, Area 65, District 42, am submitting this proposed agenda item supporting a Consideration originated by another member in the Lakeside Group in Rockwall, TX, Area 65, District 22.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

The following are examples of literature that correctly state that our AA voluntary contributions are received by the General Service Board .

Tradition 9 - long form

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 69

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 71

F-96 The AA Group Treasurer Last Page

P-16 The AA Group...Where It All Begins Pages 32-33

F-3 Self-Support Where Money And Spirituality Mix Page 13 MG-

15 AA Guidelines on Finance Pages 1-4

The Following are examples of literature that are in need of clarification.

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 30 - under Methods of Support, bullet point 2

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 12 - FAQ 4

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 22 - bullet point 3

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 28 - under Treasurer, bullet point 4

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 70 - Top of page

Under Self Support, sentence 2

Under Birthday Plan

Under Contribution Limit, bullet point 3 and 4

AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Page 71 - FAQ 4

P-52 The AA Grapevine Our Meeting In Print Page 7 - under Structure and Finance SMF-

42 Self-Support Page 2 - under Some Facts, bullet point 1

P-16 The AA Group...Where It All Begins Page 16 - under Self-Support P-

16 The AA Group...Where It All Begins Page 21 - bottom of page

P-16 The AA Group...Where It All Begins Page 34 - bottom of page F-

3 Self-Support Where Money And Spirituality Mix Page 7

F-3 Self-Support Where Money And Spirituality Mix Page 9 - Q&A 3 and 6 F-

3 Self-Support Where Money And Spirituality Mix Page 10 - Q&A 2

F-3 Self-Support Where Money And Spirituality Mix Page 11 - Q&A 2 F-

3 Self-Support Where Money And Spirituality Mix Page 13 - charts MG-15

AA Guidelines on Finance Page 5

F-203 Your Seventh Tradition Contribution - top of page

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the 73rd General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

To have consistent information throughout our literature that clearly represents and explains our service structure and the roles that each service entity fulfills.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Nelson E. Echelberge
Azalea Group, Alternate
GSR

(7) Final comments:

I submit this motion because I had believe it is important to present a consistent representations of our service structure, and about which service entity receives our contributions.

2023 Conference Committee on Finance

ITEM B: Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.

Background:

1. [History of Delegate Fee](#)
2. [Conference Area Delegate fees and additional Contributions](#)

HISTORY OF DELEGATE FEES

Conference Area Delegate Fees

1969		\$150
1974	\$150	\$200
1978	\$200	\$300
1984	\$300	\$400
1989	\$400	\$600
1997	\$600	\$800
2005	\$800	\$1,200
2012	\$1,200	\$1,600
2017	\$1,600	\$1,800

Conference Area Delegate fees and additional Contributions

	<u>Additional Contributions</u>	<u>Max Contribution</u>
2022	65	14
2021	52	46
NOTE: 2021 Max Contribution was only \$400 because the Conference was virtual.		
2020	7	7
2019	38	12
2018	51	8
2017	52	11
2016	52	10
2015	43	12
2014	10	7

Maximum Contributions

	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Memorial</u>
2022	60	14
2021	53	10
2020	72	7
2019	Year we went live on NetSuite- Data N/A	
2018	7	7
2017	60	6
2016	39	10
2015	43	4
2014	21	1

2023 Conference Committee on Finance

ITEM C: Review the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.

Background:

1. History of Contribution Limits

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the 73rd General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

HISTORY OF CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

Bequest Contribution Limits

1967	\$100	\$200
1972	\$200	\$300
1979	\$300	\$500
1986	\$500	\$1,000
1999	\$1,000	\$2,000
2007	\$2,000	\$3,000
2012	\$3,000	\$5,000
2019	\$5,000	\$10,000

2023 Conference Committee on Finance

ITEM D: Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member.

Background:

1. History of Contribution Limits

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the 73rd General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

HISTORY OF CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

Individual Contribution Limits

1967	\$100	\$200
1972	\$200	\$300
1979	\$300	\$500
1986	\$500	\$1,000
1999	\$1,000	\$2,000
2007	\$2,000	\$3,000
2018	\$3,000	\$5,000

2023 Conference Committee on Finance

ITEM E: Review Self-Support Packet.

Background: Self-Support Packet Contents

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. E.doc. 1 – Self-Support Card | F-42 |
| 2. E.doc. 2 – Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix | F-3 |
| 3. E.doc. 3 – The A.A. Group Treasurer | F-96 |
| 4. E.doc. 4 – A.A Guidelines on Finance | MG-15 |
| 5. E.doc. 5 – Your Seventh Tradition Contributions Flyer | F-203 |
| 6. E.doc. 6 – AAGV/La Vina Self-Support Flyer | F-230 |
| 7. E.doc. 7 – Birthday Contribution Envelope | FR-5 |
-

Background Attachment:

1. Memo regarding updates to the Self-Support Packet

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Memorandum

February 15, 2023

To: 2023 Conference Committee on Finance

From: Zenaida Medina*. Secretary to Trustees' Committee and Conference Committee on Finance

Re: Committee Considerations from 2022 Conference Committee on Regarding updates to the Self-Support Packet

The 2022 Conference Committee on Finance requested updates to the self-support packet, including clarifying that Seventh Tradition contributions are received by the General Service Board and not the General Service Office.

The Publishing department is in the process of revising and updating all the service pieces that are part of the packet, including revision to the Conference-approved pamphlet, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."

Drafts reflecting the above-referenced updates will be provided to the 2023 Conference Committee on Finance as soon as they are available.

Thank you.

cc: Robert W., General Manager
Diana L., Conference Coordinator

AA GRAPEVINE

Supported Solely By Your Participation

WE'RE SELF-SUPPORTING

The AA Grapevine strives to be self-supporting through the sale of the magazine and related items. An important part of self-support at all levels (individual, group, district, area) is to subscribe and purchase other materials to assure the Grapevine and La Viña continue to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

As stated in the AA Service Manual

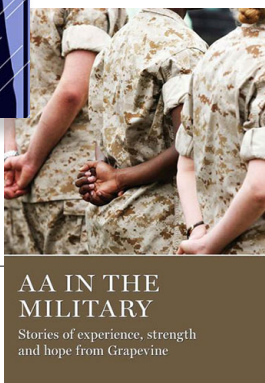
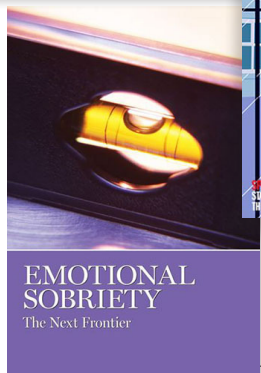
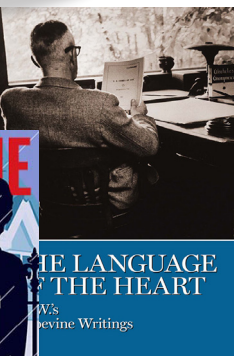
'AA Grapevine Inc.'s goal is to be supported by revenues from the purchase of subscriptions and other content related items. In contrast to G.S.O., where group contributions are applied to support group services, AA Grapevine, Inc., does not accept contributions from individuals or groups. Nor does it accept revenue from ads or membership fees. AA Grapevine, Inc. relies on A.A. groups, committees, and individual members who value Grapevine and La Viña in their recovery and in their Twelfth Step work to purchase subscriptions. 'After all,' as Bill W. once wrote, 'the Grapevine is to be their Voice — their newspaper. I am quite sure they will support it.'

WE'RE CONFERENCE APPROVED

As Bill W. expressed in his letter to Royal Shepherd in June 1946, "The Grapevine will be the voice of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement." In 1986, the General Service Conference officially recognized Grapevine as the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.

EACH ISSUE of Grapevine is filled with stories of recovery and hope written by members of AA and, on occasion, by friends of AA. The stories are direct and personal, and as varied as the fellowship itself. Grapevine writers come from all walks of life and every generation and geographic area. Each month we offer a current, ongoing view of our beloved fellowship!

Visit us at
www.aagrapevine.org



Congratulations!

We celebrate your sobriety and are grateful for contributions such as yours that help support the services G.S.O. provides to members and groups throughout the U.S. and Canada. Your contribution helps ensure that the A.A. message is available anytime, anywhere — to those who reach out for help. Some members contribute \$1, \$2 or even \$5 a year for each year of sobriety. Whatever the amount you may choose, we thank you for your participation in A.A.'s Seventh Tradition of self-support!

(Please note that per A.A.'s 2018 General Service Conference, individual contributions may not exceed \$5,000 per year.)

MEMBERS CAN ALSO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION ONLINE AT WWW.AA.ORG



FOLD HERE

In keeping with A.A.'s Seventh Tradition of self-support, we accept contributions only from A.A. members.

I am a member of A.A.

PLEASE PRINT

Contributor _____ Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Email address _____ Daytime phone _____

Group Name _____ Group ID Number (if you know it) _____

Credit Card Information

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ Amount _____

Billing Address _____ City _____ State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____ Phone Number (_____) _____

Contributions to the General Service Board may be tax deductible in the US and Canada.



2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM F: Discuss proposed agenda items related to changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve approved by 2021 General Service Conference

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the October 29, 2022 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed proposed agenda items related to the changes approved by the 2021 General Service Conference to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and noted the importance and interest of the Advisory Action to the Fellowship. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions PAIs.

The trustees' Literature committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee all proposed agenda items related to the changes in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as one grouped item with the suggestion that the Conference Literature Committee consider forwarding the item to the general service areas for wider discussion looking toward setting a policy on how and whether to edit A.A. founder's words in our current literature.

The agenda item would be discussed by the Fellowship during the 2023-2024 Conference year and considered by the Conference Committee on Literature at the 2024 General Service Conference.

2021 General Service Conference Advisory Actions <https://www.aa.org/m-39-advisory-actions> pp101

1. A revision be made to page 117 in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, replacing the phrase "opposite sex" with the word "partner" as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity:

The text on page 117 which currently reads:

"Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way. ..."

Be revised to read:

"Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way. ..."

2. The sentence which includes the phrase "lustful enough to rape" in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter "Step Six" of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change:

The text on page 66 which currently reads:

"No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."

Be revised to read:

"No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."

Background:

1. [List of Proposed Agenda Items \(PAI\) related to 2021 General Service Conference 12x12 changes \(26\)](#)
2. [Big Book: Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions History: Proposed Changes and Editorial Updates 2002 – Current](#)

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Consider revisions to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* related to references to the Twelve Concepts

**Request to add the Twelve Concepts (short and long form) to the book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" beginning on page 196.

**Add page numbers for the Twelve Concepts to the Table of Contents of the book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions."

**Insert a new paragraph to the Forward of the book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" on page number 15. The new paragraph would be inserted between what are currently the forth and fifth paragraphs.

**The new paragraph should be a brief description of the Twelve Concepts.

**The new paragraph could read as follows:

"The Twelve Concepts for World Service" are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure. They reveal the evolution by which it has arrived in its present form, and they detail the experience and reasoning on which our operation stands today. These Concepts therefore aim to record the "why" of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past, and the lessons we have drawn from that experience, can never be forgotten or lost. (adapted from the first paragraph of the Introduction to the Twelve Concepts on page C1 of the "A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service")

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

**The Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions (short and long form) and the Twelve Concepts for World Service (short and long form) are all listed in the "The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts of World Service." The Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions (short and long form) and the short form of the Twelve Concepts are all listed in the book "Alcoholics Anonymous."

**The only text book published by A.A.W.S. inc that does not include The Twelve Concepts for World Service is the "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions."

**We are asked, as members of Alcoholics Anonymous, to pass all three legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service into the future. A.A. members cannot pass on these three legacies if they don't know what the legacies are.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

After reading this Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form exactly as presented here:

May 14, 2022 Area 39 District 9: Approved unanimously

May 14, 2022 Area 39 District 10: Approved unanimously

June 2, 2022 Area 25 District 10: Approved unanimously

June 5, 2022 Area 39 District 1: Approved with substantial unanimity

Submitted by: Jimmy C., DCM Area 39 District 10

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

A request to add a new paragraph to the Forward of the "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" book describing the Twelve Concepts, was on the agenda for the 69th General Service Conference. There was not a request to add the Twelve Concepts at that time. The motion did not pass.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

To include the Twelve Concepts for World Service to the book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" thereby representing all three legacies in all of our General Service Conference Approved text books.

This request, when approved, will not change a single word anywhere in the "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions." It is simply requesting that the Twelve Concepts (short form and long form) be added to the current text book. This request will not change any of the current pagination in the 12 & 12.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Jimmy C., DCM District 10, Area 39

(7) Final comments:

Since A.A.W.S. owns the A.A. Publishing Department, this should be a simple type setting issue and therefore incur little or no cost to create the change.

Thank you for your consideration!!

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Motion is made for all revisions to the text of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions at the 71st General Service Conference, specifically on pages 66 and 117, be rescinded, changed back to the original language and retained that way, as passed by Conference Advisory actions concerning the Big Book in 1995 and the Twelve and Twelve in 2002. These changes were ill-advised and based on request and reasoning from members of outside organizations and issues. These changes were piggybacked on the reasons given for the preamble change. The reasoning is flawed and it is dishonest to say the Traditions don't cover the perceived problem of inclusiveness. These changes have created problems instead of unity.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

These changes were un-necessary. The Big Book and Twelve and Twelve are timeless manuscripts that have helped Millions of alcoholics recover using the original language as written. The changes were made to address an outside issue that has been politicalized to great extent in the last few years. The changes imply AA is allied with this outside sect or organization. To be blunt these changes were made to appease the Transgender and LGBTQ+ movements. Harm has been caused to AA as a whole as a result of these changes. Our Traditions already address the perceived problem with inclusiveness. If our Traditions are truly a guide to the General Service Conference proceedings, they were ignored with these changes. The only way trust in the GSC will ever to be restored is to address this problem head on, rescind the changes and restore the original language.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

On January 04, 2022 the Preamble and 12 and 12 text changes and other issues were presented to our GSR, to the group conscience and voted on. Letters with the results were sent to the General Service Office, General Service Conference Desk and our Conference delegate.

This agenda item was presented at our group conscience and business meeting on July 04, 2022. Our group is 100% unanimous on the request made in this proposal. The item was addressed again on July 09, 2022 with the same result.

Easy Does It Group: Conference Desk note**(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:**

The changes made to the 12 and 12 in the name of inclusiveness follow the same reasoning as the request to change the Preamble made on behalf of the LGBTQ+ and Transgender movement. These changes are an appeasement to outside organizations concerning outside issues. Our Traditions guarantee inclusiveness and already address the questions and issues raised. Anyone can be a member of AA, the "only" requirement is a desire to stop drinking. If traditions were followed and with an honest appraisal of those request was made, the only reasonable reply is that this is an outside issue. These changes came about after GSC Committee recommendations were ignored at the 71st GSC requesting more information. Shutting out the voice of the fellowship as a whole. The manipulation of floor proceedings to achieve a desired outcome is wrong. It appears that A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine Board are going to be the voice of AA and that the groups are just along for the ride. The AA pyramid has been turned upside down. A.A.W.S. is actively inviting problems and dis-unity when requesting input on more inclusive language to replace outdated language, jargon, or references. This request leads to problems and political correctness, which leads to outside issues. Concepts one and Four were ignored. Concept Twelve states the GSC shall observe the Spirit of the AA Tradition. They were not.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?
The outcome desired is for the 12 and 12 wording be restored to original language as it was prior to the 71st GSC and to let outside issues remain so. Restoring the original language would be a start at rebuilding the trust in the GSC that has been badly damaged.
(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.
District 10 Area 23
(7) Final comments:
The true majority voice of AA members has been disregarded or ignored. The changes made to the 12 and 12 and the honest reason for doing so needs to be addressed and the groups informed of the reason this change was requested, so the true voice of AA can be heard. Our Traditions cover this and have worked very well for many years. If we can't be honest about this our AA program is truly in trouble. The actions of the 72nd GSC with motions to decline to consider to hear floor action on these issues, speaks louder than words. The GSC shut out the AA fellowships voice. This will not go away. We need open, honest discussion on these changes, not governing from the higharchy in New York. The GSC brought outside contraversey into AA. A theme of Unity and quoting Bill W. won't make this go away.

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
 General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station
 New York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no "one size fits all" procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p>
<p>Restore the printing of the 12 & 12 to it's former printed version before Panel 71 Advisory Action.</p> <p>The writings of our Founders should NEVER be rewritten in ANY of our literature by any Advisory Actions. That only foot notes may be used if the G.S.C. deems it necessary by substantial unanimity.</p>
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p>
<p>Correct the actions to the 12 & 12 by Panel 71 and prevent ANY future rewrites to our founders writings.</p>
<p>(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).</p>
<p><i>Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.</i></p>
<p>The Byron Warehouse Group of Byron GA. , District 7B, Area 16 voted unanimously on 8/14/22 to forward this proposed Agenda Item to the G.S.C. The Byron Warehouse Group is the largest group in District 7B.</p>
<p>(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:</p>
<p>Up until the actions of Panel 71 and Panel 72 the G.SC. has always strived to protect the writings of our Founders. This protection needs to continue and not be influenced by outside political and social interest.</p>

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

<p>(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?</p> <p>To restore the 12 &12 back to earlier version and to protect the writings of our founders in ALL our literature from any future efforts.</p>
<p>(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.</p> <p>Mitch M [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>
<p>(7) Final comments:</p> <p>Our founders writings should not be changed ever ! We heard that in the 2021 GSC that one of the Delegates stated that " Bill Wilson is not a Deity". Well that is true. But we do believe he was one of the men that God used to start AA and to write our book Alcoholics Anonymous. God then used the "first 100" to transform our book into what we have today. He continued to use Bill W to guide and protect the fellowship from itself. Thus the 12 &12. It is arrogant to want to change literature that has saved and changed millions of lives.</p>

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
 General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station New
 York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no "one size fits all" procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

District 19 of Area 1 objects to the recent changes to page 66 of the book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" as recommended at the 71st General Service Conference. We asked Area 1 to vote to place before the 72nd General Service Conference. Motion to reverse the advisory action #19 and keep original text intact.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

- 1) The Proposed changes strip meaning from each of the next five paragraphs. It does not work to say in one paragraph, "No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony," and then two paragraphs later say, "What we must recognize now is that we exalt in some of our defects. We really love them." It is conradictory.
- 2) We know from personal experience that we cannot tailor our twelfth step work around the possible emotional "triggers" of another alcoholic. We are convinced that it will be fruitless for our literature to attempt to do so. (Ask any Al-anon about their attempts to mold their speech and behavior around touchy feelings of an alcoholic if further convincing is needed.)
- 3) In the initial request, the complaint - a)"Lust is not the cause of rape," fails to recognize "lust" is a valid word for the overwhelming desire for power, revenge, control, and all the things noted as causes of rape. Further, to say something such as, "The earth is being raped to satisfy a lust for lithium and power," would be to speak in perfectly understandable terms.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

District 19 of Area 1 passed this motion with substantial unanimity in their District GSR Meeting and brought it to Area 1 Assembly and passed with substantial unanimity there also.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

Advisory Action #19 from the 71st General Service Conference.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?
The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions would return back to its original printing.
(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.
Ruth C.
(7) Final comments:
This motion was originally submitted to Conference Coordinator during the 72nd General Service Conference where he suggested he hold on to it and submit it with the others he had received.

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
 General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station New
 York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

The 2002 Conference unanimously recommended the Advisory Action that the text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson remain as is recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published. We propose that changes made by the 71st General Service Conference:

Advisory Action 18 for changes to page 117 phrase "opposite sex" with the word "partner"

Advisory Action 19 changes to page 66, "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health" with "No one want to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony"

in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, be returned to their original text.

Note: This would include the Introduction be returned to its original text.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

The 2002 Conference Advisory Action unanimously recommended that the text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson remain as is recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published. Up to 71st General Service Conference, Bill Wilson's writings, essays were not changed in the Book Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions. We feel that Bill Wilson's Essays should not be changed.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

The Group Conscience of the Hibbing Downtown Group at our 6/6/22 business meeting was 8 'yes' votes for the proposal and zero 'no' votes for the proposal which is unanimous vote to bring the proposal forward to the district. On 6/26/22, the Group Conscience of District 9 in Area 35 was 9 'yes' votes, zero 'no' votes, and one abstained to bring this proposal forward to Area 35.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal.

2002 Conference Advisory Action recommended that: The text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published. * The conference from year to year has shown that it is reluctant to change anything that Bill wrote and even though the language may be out of date, the willingness to change anything hasn't been there and it remained this through several conferences.

2003 Conference Advisory Action recommended that: A draft Introduction to be added to the front matter of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be developed by the General Service Office Publications Department and reviewed by the trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration.

2005 Conference Advisory Action Recommended that : The following introduction be added to the front matter of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions: See attached background information from the 71st General Service Conference. See newest version of the Introduction.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed items is approved?
--

We would recognize the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published. * The conference from year to year has shown that it is reluctant to change anything that Bill wrote and even though the language may be out of date, the willingness to change anything hasn't been there and it remained this through several conferences. We feel that 2005 Introduction to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions explains the language in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions which includes:

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">The time and era of the publicationThe language as a reflection of the time period. |
|--|

(6) Provide a primary contract for the submission.

Diane and Ricco R

(7) Final Comments:

Thank you for consideration of the proposal and hopefully it will be presented to the 73 rd General Service Conference for a vote.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Conference Advisory Actions related to Area 29 request to develop a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, with consideration of past Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference.

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

1995 It was recommended that: The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Doctor Bob's Nightmare" and the Appendices remain as is. (Repeated every year to 2001 when the 4th edition was recommended and is still in place today. To make any other changes to the Big Book, this 1995 advisory action would have to be undone. *)

2002 It was recommended that: The text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published. (Remains in place today and would have to be undone if any changes to the 12 & 12 be initiated. *)

2003 It was recommended that: draft Introduction to be added to the front matter of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be developed by the General Service Office's Publications Department and reviewed by the trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration. Note: The purpose of adding an Introduction would be to explain the language in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and would include the following information:

- Time and era of publication
- Language as a reflection of the time period

Reference to the 2002 Conference Advisory Action:

"It was unanimously recommended that the text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson remain as is recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published."

This Introduction is to create a unified response to questions regarding specific language, idioms, and historical figures or events from A.A. members, newcomers and non-alcoholics.

2005 It was recommended that: The following introduction be added to the front matter of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions:

Introduction (As it is in current books)

Alcoholics Anonymous first published this book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, in 1953. Bill W., who, along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions. In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference discussed this issue and "it was unanimously recommended that the text in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writing be retained as originally published."

We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program.*The conference from year to year has shown that it is reluctant to change anything that Bill wrote and even though the language may be out of date, the willingness to change anything hasn't been there and its remained this way through several conferences

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Introduction (As it is in **newest** books)

NOTE: It appears that the AAWS Publishing Department made the following change to the Introduction in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. The sentence in bold.

Alcoholics Anonymous first published this book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, in 1953. Bill W., who, along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions. In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference discussed this issue and “it was unanimously recommended that the text in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship’s feeling that Bill’s writing be retained as originally published.” ***However, with a focus on inclusivity, the 2021 General Service Conference updated and footnoted some of the original language for clarity.***

We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program.*The conference from year to year has shown that it is reluctant to change anything that Bill wrote and even though the language may be out of date, the willingness to change anything hasn’t been there and its remained this way through several conferences

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members’ full names and addresses.

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no “one size fits all” procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p>
<p>Add a footnote to page 183 of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions at the end of the italicized Tradition 11 (after “...film”) which reads as follows: In 2013, the 63rd General Serive Conference affirmed that “the internet, social media, and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the short form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: ‘... at the level of press, radio, and films.’”</p>
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p>
<p>The internet is not referred to in the Tradition and the discussion of the Tradition in the 12 & 12 concerns itself with the reasons for policy, not its breadth. It is now all too common to see prominent people openly discussing being in recovery on the Internet—particularly on social media—undermining the purpose of the Tradition.</p> <p>Many A.A. members study the 12 & 12. Including the Conference opinion in the text will further the purpose of the Tradition.</p>
<p>(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).</p>
<p><i>Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.</i></p>
<p>Area 26 has discussed and approved this agenda item by substantial unanimity with a vote of 31 in favor and 8 opposed.</p>
<p>(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:</p>
<p>A.A. has attempted to address this topic through its literature. It is included int he general discussion of the topic “A.A. and Anonymity” on the A.A. website and is discussed in the “Understanding Anonymity” pamphlet. GSO has published an A.A. guideline and a poster specifically directed to the topic. Addin the text of the Conference opinion to the 12 & 12 will help to ensure the purpose of the Tradition is fulfilled.</p>

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members’ full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?
The intended outcome is to have the Conference opinion added to the text of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions where it will be more widely seen by the A.A. membership, especially newer members who may not be aware the spirit of Tradition 11 extends to internet and social media
(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.
Jennifer J. Area 26 Panel 72 Delegate Email:
(7) Final comments:
We have discussed several ideas for improving communication to A.A. members regarding Tradition 11 and the Internet since the 63rd GSC. Putting the 63rd Conference opinion in the 12 & 12 as a footnote to the essay helps to inform the fellowship in the most obvious way.

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
 General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station New
 York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no "one size fits all" procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p> <p>Rescind the actions taken under the Advisory Action of the 71st General Service conference for changes made to the text of certain phrases on page 66 and 117 of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. CHANGE BACK TO ORIGINAL TEXT!</p>
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p> <p>The changes failed to preserve the words and spiritual experience of the AA Pioneers which shared collective experience from within the Fellowship of AA on recovery.</p> <p>A point that needs to be made clear is that the change made on page 117 of the 12 and 12 , mate vs. partner, would be the later part of the paragraph "God fashioned us that way." While within our membership each has their own concept of who God is, for many of the members this is a change that is not acceptable. It is important to note that many groups meet inside of churches that will not agree to this change, therefore the risk of losing the location of there meeting place is very possible. While the change made may seem like a good idea for some it is bad for others. Please make the change back to the original writings.</p>
<p>(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).</p> <p><i>Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.</i></p> <p>Kayla B DCM 42 L Lindale Group Area 65</p>
<p>(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:</p> <p>The changes made in 2021 ignore the essential points put forth in the 205 introduction itself. Per Advisory Action-2005 Introduction: Introduction Alcoholics Anonymous first published Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in 1953. Bill W., who along with Dr. Bob S. founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how AA members recover, and how our society functions. In recent years some members and friends of AA have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references in the book to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it.....ect...</p>

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?
Preserve the first published words from 1953 of Bill W. who along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous. The book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions was written to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how AA members recover and how our society functions.
(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.
Kayla B
(7) Final comments:
Let to voice of the members be heard. Keep outside issues outside of our fellowship.

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
 General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station New
 York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

September 1, 2022

General Service Office
ATTN: Conference Coordinator
New York, New York

submitted with attachments via email to:

- conference@aa.org
- conferencesa@aa.org

Dear Conference Coordinator-

Warmest greetings from The Tontitown Group (000009624) in Arkansas Area 04. We hope and pray all is well for you and our friends at our General Service Office. Our group meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30pm (Central Time Zone).

On July 29, 2022, the Tontitown Group held its monthly group conscience meeting. A few weeks in advance of this meeting, our GSR provided members with copies of the agenda item and background information pertaining to the alterations to our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions which were approved by the 71st General Service Conference. During the July 29th meeting, a motion was made to submit a proposed agenda item request that would reverse the changes of Bill W's original text in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. A member read the "Introduction" from a current copy of the which gave a summary of the 2002 conference that voted unanimously to preserve Bill W's original text in this textbook. After a discussion, the group voted unanimously to affirm the 2002 conference and to submit a proposed agenda item.

I have attached our proposal and background info to this email. In the weeks following our unanimous decision on July 29th, other groups in Arkansas Area 04 were made aware of our proposal and supporting documentation. Some of those groups voted to support The Tontitown Group's proposal - you will find copies of their letters or email responses supporting our proposed agenda item attached to this email.

Please forward our proposal and background info to the appropriate Trustee's Committee for their consideration to add our proposal to the agenda of the 73rd General Service Conference. Also, please pass along our appreciation to everyone at GSO for their dedicated service to AA.



Butch P. GSR
The Tontitown Group
tontitownaa@gmail.com



Whitney F. Alternate GSR
The Tontitown Group
tontitownaa@gmail.com

cc: Mark B., Delegate (Panel 71, Area 04): delegate@arkansasaa.org
Jeannie M., Alternate Delegate (Panel 71, Area 04): altdelegate@arkansasaa.org
Jimmy D., Trustee (Southwest Region): jdean@halfie.com
Sandy H., DCM - District 1 (Panel 71, Area 04): sandyhedlund@yahoo.com

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

That the changes to Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions enacted by the 71st General Service Conference be reversed and the the text of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions return to the form as published prior to the 71st General Service Conference. Specifically:

1. On page 117, return the second full paragraph to the following text:

"Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made - spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us in that way. So our question will be this: How, by ignorance, compulsion, and self-will, do we misuse this gift for our own destruction? We A.A.'s cannot pretend to offer full answers to age-old perplexities, but our own experience does provide certain answers that work for us."

Remove the footnote on that page.

2. On page 66, return the first full paragraph to the following text:

"Some who feel they have done well may dispute this, so let's try to think it through a little further. Practically everybody wishes to be rid of his most glaring and destructive handicaps. No one wants to be so proud that he is scorned as a braggart, nor so greedy that he is labeled a thief. no one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health. No one wants to be agonized by the chronic pain of envy or to be paralyzed by sloth. Of course, most human beings don't suffer these defects at these rock-bottom levels."

Remove the footnote on that page.

Further, that no changes to the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, as described in the 1997 Conference Action and others, or Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, as described in the 2002 Conference Action be implemented due to the strong sentiment that Bill Wilson's writings remain untouched.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

The "textbooks" of Alcoholics Anonymous remain as is and the message is not diluted due to future changes in the vernacular. It also prevents repeated "minor changes" to our textbooks, with more editions being in circulation which would cause confusion in group's book study meetings due to attendees having different editions.

The 71st General Service Conference, in allowing these changes to be implemented, ignored the fact that the membership requirement in Tradition 3 is all that is required to be member of A.A. and the absolute inclusivity that Tradition 3 provides.

By changing the wording to cater to a specific minority, the conference allowed an outside interest group to influence how our literature is worded and how our program is presented. This is clearly contrary to the spirit of Tradition 10 in that we have entered into a controversial subject that has nothing to do with our primary purpose as stated in Tradition 5.

The 71st General Service Conference fell victim to introducing "identity politics" into the literature and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

Tontitown Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, District 1, Area 4 Arkansas, group #000009624.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

See attached Word document, entitled "The Tontitown Group Proposed Agenda Item Background Material".

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

Consistency of editions of the basic texts of A.A., the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. It also preserves the integrity of the message of the Fellowship, Alcoholics Anonymous which is the primary mission of the General Service Conference and the General Service Board.

It removes the practice of identity politics and outside unrelated influences to corrupt the message of our fellowship and puts the General Service Conference back in line with our traditions.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Butch Pennington
Tontitown Group GSR
tontitownaa@gmail.com
901-652-0088

(7) Final comments:

It is extremely concerning that the Trustee's Literature Committee ignored the overwhelming response to the changes implemented by the 71st General Service Conference when it chose to take the numerous specific agenda items submitted to return our literature to "as it was" and combined it into a single agenda item, stated "Discuss changes to the text of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions directed by the 71st General Service Conference." The background material submitted to the 72nd G.S.C. Literature Committee should have, at a minimum, included all of the proposed agenda items that were submitted regarding this issue. In ignoring the wishes of the various service entities requests, the Trustee's Literature Committee ignored the very basic service structure as described and illustrated on page 3 of The A.A. Service Manual, 2021-2023 Edition. In so doing, the committee was operating contrary to the spirit of Concept 1 as to the Trustee's level of importance in the service structure as well as robbing the submitters of the agenda items the "Right of Participation" as stated in Concept 4. The trustees ignored the desires of a substantial number of service entities by not submitting their agenda items for consideration by the 72nd General Service Conference. It is our view that the fellowship would be well within their rights to submit an agenda item for the immediate censure and reorganization of the General Service Board.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

1984 Conference Action: The words “queers” (p. 140) in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions not be changed to “homosexuals and lesbians,” recognizing Fellowship’s feeling that Bill Wilson’s textbook writings be retained as originally published.

1986 Conference Action: The A.A.W.S. editorial staff continue to degenderize A.A. literature, with the exception of Bill W.’s writings, as the items are reprinted, e.g., “staffing the booth” rather than “manning the booth,” etc.

1992 Conference Action: The 1986 Advisory Actions (listed below pertaining to sexist language in the Big Book and other Bill W. writings adequately addresses the issue:

“As the preface of the Big Book clearly states that the text was written in 1939 and that it has not been changed, no further explanation regarding out-of-date phrases and/or gender-oriented pronouns or chapter titles is necessary.” (Advisory Action #31).

“The A.A.W.S. editorial staff continue to degenderize A.A. literature, with the exception of Bill W.’s writings, as the items are reprinted, e.g., “staffing the booth” rather than “manning the booth”, etc.” (Advisory Action #35).

1993 Conference Action: Because of strong sentiment against any changes in the first 164 pages of the Big Book, the request to rewrite the first three chapters of the Big Book not be implemented.

1995 Conference Action: The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forwards, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.

1997 Conference Action: A draft Fourth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be developed and a progress report be brought to the 1998 Conference Literature Committee, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forwards, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.”

1998 Conference Action: A draft Fourth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, continue to be developed and a progress report brought to the 1999 Conference Literature Committee, keeping in mind that, if a Fourth Edition Big Book is published, it will require Conference Approval and the 1995 Advisory Action that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forwards, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.”

1999 Conference Action: A draft Fourth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, continue to be developed and a progress report brought to the 2000 Conference Literature Committee, keeping in mind that, if a Fourth Edition Big Book is published, it will require Conference Approval and the 1995 Advisory Action that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forwards, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.”

The Publications Department of the General Service Office maintain the following specific editorial responsibilities regarding the Fourth Edition Big Book Project:

- Editorial “fine tuning” such as footnotes, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, updating, jacket materials, page numbers, etc. Thus, page numbers are likely to change for content after page 164.
- Coordinating the flow of work between the book designer, typesetters, proofreaders and the production people, who order the paper and schedule the printing with the book manufacturer.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members’ full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

- In the case of the proposed Fourth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous, the G.S.O. editors would prepare or coordinate new material and changes such as:

New Material	Changes
Cover and jacket design	Title Page
Jacket copy	Contents Page
Preface	Factual material that appears in footnotes
Forward to the Fourth Edition	Introductions to personal stories

Based on precedent in regard to previous editions of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, the A.A. history book, and Daily Reflections, any draft copy of the Fourth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous be considered a work-in-progress, and as such, is confidential; the operating principle being that any story material brought forward to the Conference Literature Committee will be done on a "for-their-eyes-only" basis adhering to the principle of the "right of decision," and not brought forward for any other general distribution until publication.

2000 and 2001 Conference Actions which are similar to above

2002 Conference Action: The text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published.

2003 Conference Action: A draft Introduction to be added to the front matter of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be developed by the General Service Office's Publications Department and reviewed by the trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration.

Note: The purpose of adding an Introduction would be to explain the language in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and would include the following information:

- Time and era of publication
- Language as a reflection of the time period.

Reference to the 2002 Conference Advisory Action: "It was unanimously recommended that the text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson remain as is recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published."

This Introduction is to create a unified response to questions regarding specific language, idioms, and historical figures or events from A.A. members, newcomers and non alcoholics.

2005 Conference Action: The following introduction be added to the front matter of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions:

Introduction

Alcoholics Anonymous first published this book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, in 1953. Bill W., who, along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

collective experience within the fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions.

In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language idioms, and historical references to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference dissed this issue and "It was unanimously recommended that the text in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writing be retained as originally published."

We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

8/23/22, 12:58 PM

Gmail - tontitown agenda item



Eugene Pennington <butchndebi@gmail.com>

tontitown agenda item

THOS SHORT <tomshort@prodigy.net>
To: Butchndebi <butchndebi@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 12, 2022 at 9:05 PM

tom short dcm2 area4

i am writing in support of our friends in tontitown and the agenda item they are submitting for consideration.the message in the item is asking to remain true to the purpose of AA.we in district 2 have also submitted an item to stop degenderizing AA literature. tontitown and ourselves would like to keep our literature free of outside influence and virtue signaling .tontitown offers many historical references to support that position. the words used in the book alcoholics anonymous,the 12 and 12 even the preamble have served us well for many years. the statement ,does not wish to engage in any controversy does not seem to mean anything these [days.as](#) we are changing word to cater to special interest groups. we in district 2 are asking for a voice before any changes of this kind are made.concerned input we believe is critical to have a informed decision. we will listen ,but first someone has to talk to us. no one is doing that!these books pamphlets all literature has served us well for many years.pronouns are meant to appease a special interest group. No one in AA is anymore special than anyone else. Thank you Tom Short,Dcm 2,Area 4

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

8/23/22, 12:59 PM

IMG_2839.jpg

August 23, 2022

To: Tontitown Group
From: The Rock Group

The Rock Group, District 9, Area 4, has voted to support Tontitown's Proposed Agenda Item for the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Matt Brooks

Matt Brooks, GSR, Rock Group

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Motion is made that the changes made in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, on pages 117, step 12 and page 66, step 6, be revoked and returned to the original language.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

These changes were short sighted, ill advised and not made in the best interest of A.A. as a whole. The changes were not supported by a majority of A.A. groups or their members. The changes have brought outside issues into our fellowship, caused distrust and damaged the unity of A.A. as a whole.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

The issue has been discussed many times at Group level. The feedback and votes for rescinding advisory actions 18 and 19 by the 71st GSC is and has been unanimous. Other Agenda items concerning this issue have been presented, trying to get someone at the GSC to hear the voice of our fellowship at group level. These changes should have not been made without presenting the question to the groups for a vote. In this case the voting body of the GSC failed the voice of A.A. as a whole. We believe the Spirit of our Traditions, Concepts and Warranties were ignored and not adhered to.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

These changes were made to push the political agend of the Transgender and LGBTQ+ movements. The reasons given for these changes were based on individual, personal identifying choices. Literature background item E, Doc. 1.ii actually gives reasons these changes should not have been made. There is nothing religious about "God as you understand him, which applies here. The striking of 4 little words has offending many members who have been practicing the principles and walking the walk for many, many years. Our Traditions already covered this perceived problem, when applied properly. Our Traditions and Steps cover any inclusive or religious issue that has or might arise, if not taken out of context to push outside issues. Literature item E, Doc.2,ii makes misleading statements concerning page 66. Nowhere does page 66 state that lust leads to rape. The statement as written was not incorrect. The phrase "lustful enough to rape" is to help identify "character defects" and extream emotional flaws of character. The cherry-picking of language in the 12 and 12 and Big Book should not have been allowed and were made based on mis-leading reasoning.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

<p>(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?</p> <p>For the previous changes to wording on pages 66 and 117 of the 12 and 12 be returned to their original language.</p>
<p>(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.</p> <p>Don E. E.D.I.G.</p>
<p>(7) Final comments:</p> <p>A.A.W.S. invitation for revisions based on "outdated language, jargon or references." Current Science and focus on inclusivity is a recipe for division, dis-unity and self-destruction of A.A. I personally disagreed with most of what I heard and read in A.A. at first. With acceptance of willingness, honesty and open mindedness the program works as originally presented, if I work it. On Science, A biologist and Nobel Prize winner stated this week "There are people who want to change their gender, but they can't do it ... People retain their gender for life." For ever Pro opinion a different one can be found. In A.A., we need to relate, not debate. These outside political issue's and agenda's need to stay outside.</p>

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
 General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station
 New York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

**2023 General Service Conference
Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form –
Deadline 9/15/22**

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.
The Traditionalists ad hoc Committee moves that the original wording on pages 66 and 117 of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions be restored, the next time the book is reprinted.
(2) What problem does this proposed item address?
These changes dilute the impact of Bill Wilson’s intended meaning. Implementing these changes, contradicts the unanimous vote of 2002 GSC and the Introduction to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions from 2002 until the most recent printing. The caveat added to the 2021 12 & 12 Introduction, changing wording for inclusivity and clarity, is directly opposed to the wishes of the Fellowship.
(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).
<i>Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.</i>
This PAI was discussed and drafted by the Traditionalists Ad Hoc Committee, which is a group of GSRs and other AA members from multiple groups within D44 & D56/A59. We then sent this PAI for review and comment to the District 56 and District 44 DCMs and our Area 59 Delegate, as well as 41 Area Delegates throughout the U.S.
(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Area 59 Delegate’s Notes from 2022 Pre-Conference Sharing Report Page 4, Item R. – 2/3 of Area 59 represented at the 2022 Pre-Conference Sharing Session were opposed to the changes made to the 12&12, once we learned of them, after the fact! 2) The Introduction page to the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions 3) Tradition 1 Excerpt – 12 Steps & 12 Traditions 4) 2021 AA Service Manual – Resolution Authorizing the General Service Conference: footnotes 3 & 4 (Page # 123)
(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?
Restores the original expression of Bill Wilson’s Step 6 and Step 12 essays and restores the Fellowship’s confidence in the General Service Conference process, and in our “trusted servants”.
(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members’ full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

This submission comes from the Traditionalists Ad Hoc Committee. We can be reached at

Jay P	District 56/Area 59 Home Groups that support these PAIs:
Jon H	Mid-Day Miracles-Group #172596
Scott G	Red Fox Group-Group #128552
Larry E	TGIF Group-Group #137755
Barry W	Life on Life's Terms-Group #151259
Ella D	Thursday Night Beginners Group #635530
Stuart O	

(7) Final comments:

If we continue to change the language in our basic texts (Big Book and 12&12), AA will go the way of the Washingtonians. In the book *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, Bill Wrote: "In many respects the Washingtonians were akin to AA. Had they stuck to their one goal, they might have found the full answer. Instead, the Washingtonians died when they abandoned certain timeless principles, permitted politicians and reformers, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic, to use the society for their own purposes. Within a very few years they had completely lost their effectiveness in helping alcoholics, and the society collapsed." As Bill W stated, referring to Tradition 1, "on anvils of experience, the structure of our society was hammered out". That's the ultimate "benefit from the value of a broader group conscience".

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Background Detail

1) Area 59 Delegate's Notes from Pre-Conference Sharing Session March 19, 2022

R. Discuss changes to the text of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* as directed by the 71st General Service Conference.

- Opposed to changes because it is written as one man's opinion
- What about introduction? Does that go away?
- Wrong time for big changes during the pandemic
- 1/3 in favor of changes, 2/3 opposed to changes

2) Introduction to 12 Steps and 12 Traditions

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS first published *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in 1953. Bill W., who along with Dr. Bob S. founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions.

In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references in the book to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship.

However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference discussed this issue and it was unanimously recommended that: "The text in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feelings that Bill's writing be retained as originally published." However, with a focus on inclusivity, the 2021 General Service Conference updated and footnoted some of the original language for clarity.

We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program.

3) 12 Steps & 12 Traditions – Tradition 1 Excerpt

So, at the outset, how best to live and work together as groups became the prime question. In the world about us we saw personalities destroying whole peoples. The struggle for wealth, power, and prestige was tearing humanity apart as never before. If strong people were stalemated in the search for peace and harmony, what was to become of our erratic band of alcoholics? As we had once struggled and prayed for individual recovery, just so earnestly did we commence to quest for the principles through which A.A. itself might survive. On anvils of experience, the structure of our Society was hammered out.

4) Excerpt from 2021 A.A. Service Manual Section: Resolution Authorizing the General Service Conference (p. 123)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous should become, as of this date, July 3, 1955, the guardian of the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, the perpetrators of the world services of our Society, the voice of the group conscience of our entire Fellowship, and the sole successors of its co-founders, Doctor Bob and Bill.

AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD: That neither the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous nor the warranties of Article XII of the Conference Charter shall ever be changed or amended by the General Service Conference except by first asking the consent of the registered A.A. groups of the world. [This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.]³

These groups shall be suitably notified of any proposal for change and shall be allowed no less than six months for consideration thereof. And before any such Conference action can be taken, there must first be received in writing within the time allotted the consent of at least three-quarters of all those registered groups who respond to such proposal.⁴

³ Resolution: It was resolved by the 1976 General Service Conference that those instruments requiring consent of three-quarters of the responding groups for change or amendment would include the Twelve Steps of A.A., should any such change or amendment ever be proposed

⁴ Bill uses the term "registered." A.A.W.S. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practices of any A.A. group. Groups are listed solely for purposes of accurate communications

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

September 12, 2022**Conference Coordinator
G.S.O. Alcoholics Anonymous**

On behalf of the listed Groups, Individuals, and District, we are submitting a proposed item with request to be added to the 73rd General Service Conference Agenda.

Following is the completed General Service Conference (G.S.C.) Proposed Agenda Item Submission form; we respectfully request it be forwarded in its entirety during review of consideration.

Due to the earlier deadline submission this year, and based on our Delegate Report Back held in the Summer, we were not able to bring this Item forward to the North East Texas Area 65 body at one time and as a whole, as our next Area Assembly occurs 2 days after the September 15th deadline submission date.

Our proposal is one of rescinding the original Advisory Action from the 71st General Service Conference Final Report and in concern of the decision made of not hearing the fellowship request to revisit the Advisory Action on the floor on the 72nd General Service Conference.

- *“A revision be made to page 117 in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, replacing the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner”...”*
- *“The sentence which includes the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six” of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows...”*

We express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for the attention and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis B.
Group GSR
ODAAT Group (Plano,
TX)

John K.
Group Alt GSR.ODAAT
Group (Plano, TX)

Tahtianna F.
Group Member.ODAAT
Group (Plano, TX)

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

General Service Conference (G.S.C.) Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Motion: Rescind the actions taken under the Advisory Action of the 71st General Service Conference for changes made to the text of certain phrases on pages 66 and 117 of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Return the original 1953 wording of Bill W., delete footnotes, and revert back Introduction as follows:

1. Page 66
 - a. **Return To:** "...be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."
 - b. **From 71st Advisory Action:** "...commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."
 - c. **Delete Footnote:** "*This sentence has been updated from the original text to generalize the possible consequences of extreme emotions."
2. Page 117
 - a. **Return To:** "...desire to find a mate of the opposite sex..."
 - b. **From 71st Advisory Action:** "...desire to find a partner..."
 - c. **Delete Footnote:** "* This sentence has been updated from the original text to reflect the inclusivity of the Fellowship."
3. As a result of above items 1 and 2
 - a. The Introduction should revert back to the 2005 Advisory Action Introduction.
 - b. **Delete Sentence:** "However, with a focus on inclusivity, the 2021 General Service Conference updated and footnoted some of the original language for clarity."

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

The changes failed to preserve the words and spiritual experience of the AA Pioneers which shared collective experience from within the Fellowship of A.A. on recovery.

The original text conveys a descriptive understanding of the extreme emotions some alcoholics may experience. The updated language has selectively removed certain extreme outcomes from the associated sins.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

A.A. Group

A.A. Member

O.D.A.A.T. Group
Plano, TX
Group ID.: 40892

Wayne H
NETA 65
Delegate Panel 71

Azalea Group
Tyler, TX
Group ID.: 301914

Kathy M.
Heath, TX
Lakeside Group in Rockwall, TX
Group ID.: 7020

A Vision For You
Hurst, TX
Group ID.: 339782

Gary M.
Heath, TX
Lakeside Group in Rockwall, TX
Group ID.: 7020

McKinney Miracle Group
McKinney, TX
Group ID.: 23347

Kayla B.
Lindale, TX
Lindale Group in Lindale, TX
Group ID.: 235896

Last Hour Group of A.A.
Midlothian, TX
Group ID.: 8280

Downtown Suburban Group
Tyler, TX
Group ID.: 233988

Primary Purpose Group
Winnsboro, TX
Group ID.: 52314

Loop Group
Palestine, TX
Group ID: 14561

Athens Group
Athens, TX
Group ID: 93825

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

The changes made in 2021 ignore the essential points put forth in the 2005 introduction itself:

Per Advisory Action - 2005 Introduction:

Introduction

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS first published Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in 1953. Bill W., who along with Dr. Bob S. founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions.

In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references in the book to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference discussed this issue and it was unanimously recommended that: "The text in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feelings that Bill's writing be retained as originally published."

We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

Preserve the first published words from 1953 of Bill W. who along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous. The book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions was written to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover and how our society functions.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Phyllis B.
Group GSR
ODAAT Group (Plano,
TX)

John K.
Group Alt GSR ODAAT
Group (Plano, TX)

Tahtianna F.
Group Member ODAAT
Group (Plano, TX)

(7) Final comments:

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no "one size fits all" procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Area 38 EAMO

Alcoholics Anonymous

Dear Area 38 Delegate,

Cc: Alt-Area 38 Delegate;

As District Committee Member for District 17 of Eastern Area Missouri I write to you on behalf of our Districts group GSR's, Alt-GSR's, who speak for their groups in regards to changed items from the 2021 General Service Conference. Our groups majority conscious has agreed, and the district respectfully request that the following actions be rescinded immediately:

Consider requests to change portions of text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, back to previous wording. These requests would rescind Advisory Actions from the 2021 General Service Conference which changed text on pages 66 and/or 117.

We understand that the proposed items for the 2022 General Service Conference already have several proposals requesting these changes already. Our Groups have agreed to withhold our own separate proposal in lieu of attaching our grievances to these efforts already in motion.

In the event that these changes are not accepted – we will move forward with our own and wish that they be considered for the 2023 General Service Conference.

Thank you for your time and service.

Bryan S

District 17 DCM

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Returns to what works!

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

District 17 GSRs and Alt-GSRs

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

Preamble Change

Changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions made By The 71st Conference conflicted with 2002 Conference actions.

-There was a unanimous decision of the 2002's General Service Conference which can be found on page 14 of the latest edition of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

-This decision says that the text in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, as written by Bill W., remain as originally published. It further states that the 2021 General Service Conference updated and footnoted some of the original language.

-It appears, from the information we have received, that this latest conference, held during April of 2021, seems to ignore the actions of the 2002 conferences.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

A.

Do nothing about the recent Conference actions.

Pro,

Perhaps future conferences will not make such errors against what the AA service structure requires.

Con,

The future conferences might continue to violate the spirit and letter of the AA service structure that might result in a continuing and deepening disunity across all of Alcoholics Anonymous.

B.

Stand with the Districts that want to require an examination of the recent Conference actions and ask that any improper actions be corrected. If improper actions are found to have been made ask the Conference to do a thorough inventory so this doesn't happen in the future.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Pro,

That future conferences will not continue to violate the spirit and letter of the AA service structure and we as a collative fellowship can stop/prevent a continuing and deepening disunity across all of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Con,

Not asking for an explanation of the recent conference actions might deepen the conferences stand on their recent actions resulting more actions that result in greater disunity across AA and result in an impasse of the AA service structure and break the links between the groups and the conference.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

(7) Final comments:

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
 General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station New
 York, NY 10163

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Updated 7/22

Rick W.

From: JoAnn F > Thursday, September 15, 2022
Sent: 6:42 PM Rick W.
To: Re: Big Book proposal
Subject:

Hello Rick,

First, thank you for your service. You are correct, one proposal is to cease and desist the printing of the "reformatted" Twelve and Twelve as it is actually a "revised" version of the Twelve and Twelve. As we are sure all know, to reformat a page means to change the look, to revise means to change the wording. The Twelve and Twelve currently being printed has been revised, not reformatted??

Also, as far as the Big Book, that is being portrayed as a translation, which is to take the exact verbiage and translate to another language, when in fact what is being proposed is to reword the Big Book?? If we are hearing correctly there have been AA funds spent to hire a non-alcoholic to do the rewriting.

Both of these changes pose many problems, most importantly group unity.

Thank you for your time,

`JoAnn

Hi, JoAnn,

My name is Rick W., a past staff member helping out with recording Proposed Agenda Items. We received an email from you yesterday, and it contained one of the proposals you included in your email today. I'm just double checking that you mean to send in two items that read:

- Cease and desist the printing of the "reformatted" Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
- The proposal of 'a plain language translation" of the Big Book be resubmitted in the correct manner and procede through the correct steps for a true group conscience as to whether a revised edition of the Big Book be implimented.

Also, so that we can help the trustees' Committee understand the intent of your first motion when you speak of reformatting, do you mean the changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* that were passed at the Conference last year? Or something else?

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

General Service Conference (G.S.C.)
Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form

Annual deadline for submissions for a General Service Conference is September 15.*

What types of proposals, suggestions or ideas rise to the level of needing a General Service Conference "action decision"?

Proposals that are important to the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, policy decisions or request for change Conference-approved literature and items that might require the collective conscience of the Fellowship. trustees, corporate directors and staff bring together years of experience in A.A. service in making decisions the appropriate process or disposition of proposed Conference agenda items. Warranty Six reminds us though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any a government..." *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* (page VI).

The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service states on page 42 that:

The Conference considers matters of policy for A.A. as a whole, and there are tried-and-true procedures for placing an item on the agenda in the most effective way possible. For suggestions that do not concern overall policy, there are procedures to ensure they are routed to the most appropriate part of the service structure.

The final agenda for any Conference consists of items suggested by:

- Individual A.A. members
- Groups
- Delegates
- Trustees
- Area assemblies
- Area committee members
- Directors and staff members of A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine

GSRs may have ideas for an agenda item, including some brought to them by group members. Experience suggests that they may want to discuss them first with their groups, then at district or area meetings. A district or an area can then forward it to the staff member at G.S.O. who is currently serving as Conference coordinator.

The following is from a process overview document "FAQs on Group Conscience Consideration for Proposed Conference Agenda Items."

Q. What happens when a proposed Conference agenda item arrives at the Conference Coordinator's desk?

A. The Conference Coordinator acknowledges receipt of the proposed agenda item and lets the sender know which of the following options is most appropriate and, if necessary, an explanation of why and how the proposed agenda item is being directed. Some of the possible routes are:

1. Forwarding to a Trustees' Committee via a G.S.O. Staff Member or Department Head.
2. Forwarding to G.S.O.'s Publications Director or Group Services Staff person.
3. Forwarding to A.A. World Services, Inc.
4. Forwarding to Chair of the General Service Board.
5. Forwarding to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board/AA Grapevine Publisher.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed at the Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no "one size fits all" procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Cease and desist the revision of any of the first 164 pages of the Big Book as written by Bill W. and Bob

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

The revision of the first 164 pages of the Big Book

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

Individual

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. Provide background material(s) included with the proposal:

The Washingtonian Temperance Society: slavery and liquor
The Oxford Group: religion and anonymity
The Emmanuel Movement: money

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

The proposal of "a plain language translation" of the Big Book be resubmitted in the correct manner procede through the correct steps for a true group conscience as to whether a revised edition of the Book be implimented

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

John F [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(7) Final comments:

Please don't change the Big Book which is the reason I have been able to celebrate over 35 years uninterrupted sobriety

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL:

Attn: Conference Desk
General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station New
York, NY 10163

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

1. Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

To maintain unity the text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published. If revisions to pages 117 and 66 have been published they should be restored to the original version of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

2. What problem does this proposed item address?

That changes made be reversed and That no further changes be made to the book Twelve steps and Twelve traditions.

3. What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item?

Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

The idea started with a few members of Southwest Texas area 68 District 5 during our 2021 summer workshop, upon which a few members of district 5 approached its membership and received its support. It was discussed again in 2022 and decided district 5 would like to submit it again. This agenda item is being sent to GSO by district 5 in Southwest Texas area 68.

4. Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

It would seem that if the Conference is going to have a Unity in the fellowship about our policies, it is counterproductive to have two diametrically opposed items. It is not possible for the fellowship to implement and then practice policies that are in conflict with each other.

2002 It was recommended that:

The text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published.

2003 It was recommended that:

A draft Introduction to be added to the front matter of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be developed by the General Service Office's Publications Department and reviewed by the trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration.

Note: The purpose of adding an Introduction would be to explain the language in

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and would include the following information:

- Time and era of publication
- Language as a reflection of the time period

Reference to the 2002 Conference Advisory Action:

"It was unanimously recommended that the text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson remain as is recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published."

This Introduction is to create a unified response to questions regarding specific language, idioms, and historical figures or events from A.A. members, newcomers and non-alcoholics

2005 It was recommended that:

The following introduction be added to the front matter of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions:

"Introduction (As it is in current 12 & 12's)

Alcoholics Anonymous first published this book, Twelve Steps and Twelve

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Traditions, in 1953. Bill W., who, along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics

Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions. In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference discussed this issue and "it was unanimously recommended that the text in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writing be retained as originally published."

We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program."

First attempt for a change after 30 years of publication

1984

The words "queers" (p. 140) in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions not be changed to "homosexuals and lesbians," recognizing Fellowship feeling that Bill Wilson's textbook writings be retained as originally published

No further change requests until 2021

From Concept X

In all matters of joint or conflicting authority, therefore, a senior jurisdiction must be established. The junior jurisdiction must be heard and, regardless of the question involved, there must be an understood point or body where a final settlement can be had. It is understood that lesser conflicts are not to be loaded upon the Trustees for final decision. But it should always be clear where the point of final decision is located. A condition to be avoided at all costs is double-headed business or policy management. Authority can never be divided into equal halves. Nowhere does such split authority or double-headed management so bedevil a structure as in its executive departments.

5. What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

The changes made be reversed. No further changes made without it going to members of the fellowship 1st to allow the group conscience to decide.

6. Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Noelle S K.

7. Final Comments:

Alcoholics Anonymous is a proud and diverse group of people who hold our literature and traditions in the highest esteem. Our lives have been saved by this program, and we deeply value our books and the words of Bill Wilson in their original and true form. We believe that tampering with the 12 & 12 is a disservice to the groups and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. We should honor our traditions and the words of our founder by continuing to use the literature in its original format.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Move to rescind The 71st Conference decision
to change the 12x12 BOOK plate and p117.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

The change that was made by those of the 71st
made man less wretched and God wretched. This
decision is reflecting of the fact that AA today no longer
submits to God but once again to themselves.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

I alone am submitting this proposed agenda item.
Our group has discussed these changes at our last
- & group conference meetings and it looks to split us
in half.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

Our responsibility is to carry this message -
The message of the first 85 yrs. of AA - until one day
we decided we knew better than all those before us,
and do not want the message that saved our
lives to be offered to the newcomer.
- do we want to end like the heshkriptomani?

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

That all AA literature would hold true to the message of AA that has been the message for 85 yrs. The first 100 - the founders had a very specific, basic understanding of who God is - He will not change no matter what you write in a book

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

He is God / He is Truth.

Lynn L [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(7) Final comments:

My prayer is for restoration - that AA would once again have right relation with God.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

PAI 143

Hello Again,

Advent Men's Group is sending you this letter again, along with our proposed agenda items for the 2023 GSC. We have not updated it as we still believe our positions are sound. We are also hoping it will be included in the background material this year as it was excluded last year.

When making the decision whether to include it we would remind committee members of the background material included with the 2021 GSC Preamble agenda item. Quotations from the World Health Organization and a NIH study on "Alcohol research with transgender populations" was included. How is that material acceptable and our letter not?

It is clear to us that those responsible for deciding what makes it on the GSC agenda, have an agenda of their own. Only material that supports one side of the argument is included. Last year's abbreviated background material on the preamble, plain language big book and the 12 and 12 language changes was unfair. Show AA members what we are submitting and let them decide.

John H - GSR
Advent Men's Group

Dear GSC Members,

To open we pose this question inspired by our 12 traditions and their central focus on unity: The traditions are in place to help keep the groups from 'going off the rails', though "every group has the right to be wrong".ⁱ What is a group to do when it believes the general service conference has done so?

My name is John H, and I am the GSR for Advent Men's group in West Lawn PA. Our group members voted unanimously to send this letter to you. We are reaching out today to discuss this year 's GSC advisory actions regarding language changes to AA literature, as well as the proposed plain language version rewrite of our basic text. This initial letter is intended to express our concerns generally and to ask for feedback directly from conference members. We hope to hear from those that have supported these changes as well as members that do not. Our group is in the process of discussing and voting on proposals for agenda items for the 2022 GSC meeting. We plan to forward the results to the conference coordinator before the September 15, 2021, deadline. Your responses will help inform our discussions.

We believe the conference's desires to make AA writings more inclusive and it's printed language less offensive has ventured into the realm of banning words. We feel this is a dark and potentially destructive path to take. To highlight an example of banning words we can turn to the email from the Executive Editor at AA's GSO dated 9/3/2020.ⁱⁱ This email was provided in the background material for the preamble change. While the email subject is described as "degenderizing language" it talks specifically about banning/removing gendered terms, though it uses less explicit language such as "fixes" and "reformulating". Since the change to the preamble has been approved, and the GSO is actively removing/banning gender specific terms in AA pamphlets, we are concerned this is just the first step, or precedent setting change, for future more sweeping literature language

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

revisions. Our first questions: Is AA's GSO taking the position that gender does not exist? What will be next... banning God? If this would be the path, then would AA still be AA?

Using the preamble change and the above email as a focal point we would also highlight the introduction of a controversial outside issue, transgenderism. It is plain to see from the six letters written to Grapevine Inc. requesting the preamble change that the inclusivity argument is based on the idea that non-binary transgenders might feel excluded by the phrase "fellowship of men and women". On its face this discussion brings into AA an outside issue that the preamble itself states AA has no opinion on, "does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes". As we do not wish to engage in the same introduction of outside issues, we will not make a counter argument at this time, but the removal of gendered language cannot be seen as anything other than AA taking a position on transgender issues. However, we will discuss the arguments of those who sought these changes.

To bring to the surface another example of how the ongoing language changes cut against AA principles we reference AA's service manual and the question "Why do we need a Conference?".ⁱⁱⁱ We point to this quote from Bernard B. Smith, non-alcoholic trustee, and AA Board of Trustees Chairperson in 1954 for the answer. "We need it (the GSC) to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is". No one is suggesting that the word people be removed from this quote, or any other AA literature, and be replaced with gender specific language to align with the beliefs of Cisgender AA's. Throughout all of AA writings it is clear to see inclusivity is our society's aim. To assert otherwise is to not know AA. We cannot think of any organization that is more welcoming than AA. So then, why is AA's GSO and the conference banning gendered words in response to "any few"?

To highlight one example of how "any few" are pressing for changes that are not the needs and wants of the greater AA fellowship, we point to a letter in the preamble background material from Lucky M dated 11/11/2019.^{iv} In it, Lucky states that one in five transgender people do not identify as male or female. If we are to accept that point as true, this would mean that roughly 80% of the transgender community does identify as male or female. The same letter states that there are roughly 2 million transgender people living in the US and Canada. Again, if we accept this to be true, then that would mean they make up about .5% of the population, and only 20% of that is non-binary, or .1%. Is it rational to ban words or make sweeping language changes to accommodate ".1%"? And the "outcry" from the fellowship for the preamble change was a result of just six letters... not 6000, or 600, just 6 in a 2-year period sent to Grapevine Inc. They all came in just before the deadline for the agenda items for the 2019 and 2020 GSC meetings. Were these letters the impetus for the preamble change or the justification for the conference to do so?

While discussing such changes, let us make a brief analogy about the removal of gendered language and AA's core belief that alcoholics have an allergy to alcohol. Since we alcoholics are a small minority of society, wouldn't it be like insisting society as a whole stop drinking. Maybe we should request that the production of alcohol stop in the United States... no worldwide! Clearly, alcohol greatly affects the alcoholics life! Of course, this would be an outrageous course of action, and one

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

founded in Self. It is important to remember that our literature states, "Selfishness, self-centeredness! That, we think, is the root of our troubles."^v

AA's primary purpose is to help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety but changing our literature to conform to the still sick and suffering alcoholic seems to be a distortion of that mission. The idea of removing barriers to those suffering from alcoholism is a noble endeavor. However, we feel the conference has forgotten that the greatest and most difficult obstacles to overcome are the ones inside each of us. It is only when we are willing to set aside other worldly concerns and prejudices that we have "hit bottom". As the first step clearly states,^{vi} "Then, and only then, do we become as open-minded to conviction and as willing to listen as the dying can be". We have heard countless stories of alcoholics coming to their first few AA meetings and being "put off" by this or that. Generally, it would be some excuse as to why they could not identify with what AA members were sharing about themselves or even the 12 Steps. Isn't this issue of gendered language as a barrier to accessing AA's program just the latest example of those same excuses?

The most important issue at hand is the proposed "English to English translation" of the Big Book. The GSC has, in its desire to reach more alcoholics, authorized work to begin on a rewrite of AA's basic text. In doing so it has begun the process of dividing those in AA into two separate groups, one that will be working with the original text and one with the new version. When AA sacrifices one principle for another, such as unity for relatability, it has started the dubious process of eating itself to expand itself. Under the guise of reaching more alcoholics it will almost certainly fracture our fellowship as we now know it. Violating the first tradition of Unity is in essence violating all the traditions. How this can be seen as a prudent path for AA's future we cannot comprehend. In this time of enormous social change, we believe AA should be holding fast to its traditions and resisting calls for such change.

We must also acknowledge that as a society we are just beginning to emerge from one of the most challenging times in modern history. With AA meetings all over the world shut down for in person meetings and readjusting to virtual formats, we have faced enormous challenges in our mission of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. We also want to acknowledge the challenges the sober alcoholic has faced with respect to losing that so vital power of our face-to-face fellowship. Acknowledging these challenges, it is inconceivable the GSC would conclude broad changes to AA are justified at this time.

To highlight what would seem to be a significant lack of awareness of how difficult and limiting the past 18 months have been we will point to the letter from the Grapevine Board Chair regarding the preamble change.^{vii} In the first sentence of the fourth paragraph, he states "The topic was actively discussed in groups across the United States and Canada for two years over both the 70th and 71st General Service conference panels." I have spoken to dozens of AA members, both men and women. Other than our district officers, no one was aware background material existed. And, while it was made available to GSRs via an email, no AA group members I spoke to were aware of that material and how important it was in coming to an 'informed' group conscience. While we must acknowledge this breakdown in communication inside the service structure has many causes, including the responsibility of each member to seek out such information, it is unlikely the will of the AA fellowship was represented in the feedback from the groups across the US and Canada. It is simply a falsehood to say it was actively discussed in groups!

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Furthermore, during recent discussions between our district and the Area 59 delegate it was revealed that no area conscience was discussed and voted on regarding the preamble change in preparation for the 2021 GSC meeting. Our area delegate stated she relied on the area conscience vote from the previous year, 2020, and the pre-conference sharing session feedback from 2021. It is important to note that 2020 was a voting year in Area 59. This means that an entirely new panel of GSRs and DCMs was in place starting in January 2021. In addition, since no discussion or vote took place inside the area service structure, all the group members and GSRs that relied on the communication through district, rather than the pre-conference sharing or goggle forum, did not have their voices heard on this important issue. Our area delegate also stated that the area conscience did not support the production of the plain language big book. She said changes to that agenda item during the GSC meeting supported her vote in favor of the plain language version BB and against the area conscience on that issue. While we acknowledge the third concept of world service that gives delegates “The Right of Decision”, we view what happened as a violation of its spirit. We ask, weren’t the newly impaneled GSRs and DCMs in Area 59 deprived of that same “Right of Decision” regarding the preamble discussion? Do the events described in this paragraph sound like a loving God expressing himself in our AA conscience?^{viii}

While some might argue that the changes made by the GSC are small and do not substantially change AA, we disagree. We believe that this is just the beginning of what will be the remaking of AA. We point to the name of the 2022 conference meeting as an indication of this intent, “AA Comes of Age 2.0, Unified in Love and Service”. While we will acknowledge that the 71st GSC was unified in its mission, it is not so clear that the unity of AA in the future was its primary aim. And, while some might say we are reading too far into motives that cannot be known, the time in AA history that is referenced by “AA comes of Age” is undeniably a time in AA history with great change. For us, the publication of a rewritten big book as conference approved literature, regardless of how it is characterized, would qualify as a broad and sweeping change to AA. This we are squarely against!

In closing we would like to refer to the forward to the 4th edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.^{ix} The last paragraph starts with “While our literature has preserved the integrity of the A.A. message, sweeping changes in society as a whole are reflected in new customs and practices within the Fellowship”. We are not suggesting AA remain forever unchanged, but that “the integrity of the A.A. message” not be sacrificed by a GSC motivated to ‘come of age’. We hope that you, the GSC members, might reflect on this letter and the changes the 2021 conference has made. Please consider whether they are in the best interest of AA unity as well as its long-term future. We thank you for your time and for your service to AA. We look forward to all responses.

Sincerely,

Advent Men’s Group

A brief group qualification – We are roughly 15 or so alcoholic men ranging in age from 25 to 70, with lengths of sobriety from 6 months to 50 years. While we are categorized as a closed men’s group, anyone who seeks AA’s message of recovery is welcome. From time to time, a woman or two

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members’ full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

have arrived at our meeting. They have always been told they are welcome to attend. Our doors are open to *all* with a desire to stop drinking.

References:

-
- i 12 & 12 – Tradition 4 – page 149
 - ii 71st GSC Background – Grapevine Item E – Doc 2
 - iii The AA Service Manual – page S20
 - iv 71st GSC Background – Grapevine Item E – Doc 3 page 7
 - v The book Alcoholics Anonymous – page 62
 - vi 12 & 12 – Step 1 – page 24
 - vii Grapevine Inc. Memo from Josh E dated May 28, 2021
 - viii AA's Tradition Two
 - ix The book Alcoholics Anonymous – page xxiv

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no “one size fits all” procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p>
<p>We move that the changes made to pages 66 and 117 in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be rescinded and return them to the original text.</p>
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p>
<p>Removing “offensive language” opens the door for endless changes to our primary literature. This is already happening with AA pamphlets and structure manuals throughout the fellowship. Changing words changes the meaning. It can also introduce outside issues that have no place in AA.</p>
<p>(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).</p>
<p><i>Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.</i></p>
<p>Advent Men’s Group in West Lawn PA located in AA Area 59 has discussed this agenda item at great length. There is unanimous support for it among our home group members.</p>
<p>(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:</p>
<p>We are including a letter written by our group to the GSC members. This letter explains our reasoning and provides references to AA literature supporting our position.</p>

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members’ full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?
Preserving the integrity of the AA message is our goal. It is our belief that in doing so we will also preserve AA for the future. That it's message of recovery may continue to exist as it was originally written.
(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.
John H. Advent Men's Group
(7) Final comments:
<p>The forward to the fourth edition of the Big Book speaks most directly to the idea of maintaining the AA message as it was written. "While our literature has preserved the integrity of the A.A. message, sweeping changes in society as a whole are reflected in new customs and practices within the Fellowship". Our agenda item seeks to preserve the integrity of AA's message and resist changes to it.</p> <p>We also ask, have we become so righteous that our ears cannot hear anything that might offend or disturb us? Does anyone in the GSC believe the intent of this language was to offend or diminish anyone or anything? Do you really think it is language changes like this that will help people get and stay sober?</p>

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
 General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station New
 York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Hello Again,

Advent Men's Group is sending you this letter again, along with our proposed agenda items for the 2023 GSC. We have not updated it as we still believe our positions are sound. We are also hoping it will be included in the background material this year as it was excluded last year.

When making the decision whether to include it we would remind committee members of the background material included with the 2021 GSC Preamble agenda item. Quotations from the World Health Organization and a NIH study on "Alcohol research with transgender populations" was included. How is that material acceptable and our letter not?

It is clear to us that those responsible for deciding what makes it on the GSC agenda, have an agenda of their own. Only material that supports one side of the argument is included. Last year's abbreviated background material on the preamble, plain language big book and the 12 and 12 language changes was unfair. Show AA members what we are submitting and let them decide.

John H - GSR
Advent Men's Group

Dear GSC Members,

To open we pose this question inspired by our 12 traditions and their central focus on unity: The traditions are in place to help keep the groups from 'going off the rails', though "every group has the right to be wrong".ⁱ What is a group to do when it believes the general service conference has done so?

My name is John H, and I am the GSR for Advent Men's group in West Lawn PA. Our group members voted unanimously to send this letter to you. We are reaching out today to discuss this year 's GSC advisory actions regarding language changes to AA literature, as well as the proposed plain language version rewrite of our basic text. This initial letter is intended to express our concerns generally and to ask for feedback directly from conference members. We hope to hear from those that have supported these changes as well as members that do not. Our group is in the process of discussing and voting on proposals for agenda items for the 2022 GSC meeting. We plan to forward the results to the conference coordinator before the September 15, 2021, deadline. Your responses will help inform our discussions.

We believe the conference's desires to make AA writings more inclusive and it's printed language less offensive has ventured into the realm of banning words. We feel this is a dark and potentially destructive path to take. To highlight an example of banning words we can turn to the email from the Executive Editor at AA's GSO dated 9/3/2020.ⁱⁱ This email was provided in the background material for the preamble change. While the email subject is described as "degenderizing language" it talks specifically about banning/removing gendered terms, though it uses less explicit language such as "fixes" and "reformulating". Since the change to the preamble has been approved, and the GSO is actively removing/banning gender specific terms in AA pamphlets, we are concerned this is just the first step, or precedent setting change, for future more sweeping literature language

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

revisions. Our first questions: Is AA's GSO taking the position that gender does not exist? What will be next... banning God? If this would be the path, then would AA still be AA?

Using the preamble change and the above email as a focal point we would also highlight the introduction of a controversial outside issue, transgenderism. It is plain to see from the six letters written to Grapevine Inc. requesting the preamble change that the inclusivity argument is based on the idea that non-binary transgenders might feel excluded by the phrase "fellowship of men and women". On its face this discussion brings into AA an outside issue that the preamble itself states AA has no opinion on, "does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes". As we do not wish to engage in the same introduction of outside issues, we will not make a counter argument at this time, but the removal of gendered language cannot be seen as anything other than AA taking a position on transgender issues. However, we will discuss the arguments of those who sought these changes.

To bring to the surface another example of how the ongoing language changes cut against AA principles we reference AA's service manual and the question "Why do we need a Conference?"ⁱⁱⁱ We point to this quote from Bernard B. Smith, non-alcoholic trustee, and AA Board of Trustees Chairperson in 1954 for the answer. "We need it (the GSC) to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is". No one is suggesting that the word people be removed from this quote, or any other AA literature, and be replaced with gender specific language to align with the beliefs of Cisgender AA's. Throughout all of AA writings it is clear to see inclusivity is our society's aim. To assert otherwise is to not know AA. We cannot think of any organization that is more welcoming than AA. So then, why is AA's GSO and the conference banning gendered words in response to "any few"?

To highlight one example of how "any few" are pressing for changes that are not the needs and wants of the greater AA fellowship, we point to a letter in the preamble background material from Lucky M dated 11/11/2019.^{iv} In it, Lucky states that one in five transgender people do not identify as male or female. If we are to accept that point as true, this would mean that roughly 80% of the transgender community does identify as male or female. The same letter states that there are roughly 2 million transgender people living in the US and Canada. Again, if we accept this to be true, then that would mean they make up about .5% of the population, and only 20% of that is non-binary, or .1%. Is it rational to ban words or make sweeping language changes to accommodate ".1%"? And the "outcry" from the fellowship for the preamble change was a result of just six letters... not 6000, or 600, just 6 in a 2-year period sent to Grapevine Inc. They all came in just before the deadline for the agenda items for the 2019 and 2020 GSC meetings. Were these letters the impetus for the preamble change or the justification for the conference to do so?

While discussing such changes, let us make a brief analogy about the removal of gendered language and AA's core belief that alcoholics have an allergy to alcohol. Since we alcoholics are a small minority of society, wouldn't it be like insisting society as a whole stop drinking. Maybe we should request that the production of alcohol stop in the United States... no worldwide! Clearly, alcohol greatly affects the alcoholics life! Of course, this would be an outrageous course of action, and one

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

founded in Self. It is important to remember that our literature states, "Selfishness, self-centeredness! That, we think, is the root of our troubles."^v

AA's primary purpose is to help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety but changing our literature to conform to the still sick and suffering alcoholic seems to be a distortion of that mission. The idea of removing barriers to those suffering from alcoholism is a noble endeavor. However, we feel the conference has forgotten that the greatest and most difficult obstacles to overcome are the ones inside each of us. It is only when we are willing to set aside other worldly concerns and prejudices that we have "hit bottom". As the first step clearly states,^{vi} "Then, and only then, do we become as open-minded to conviction and as willing to listen as the dying can be". We have heard countless stories of alcoholics coming to their first few AA meetings and being "put off" by this or that. Generally, it would be some excuse as to why they could not identify with what AA members were sharing about themselves or even the 12 Steps. Isn't this issue of gendered language as a barrier to accessing AA's program just the latest example of those same excuses?

The most important issue at hand is the proposed "English to English translation" of the Big Book. The GSC has, in its desire to reach more alcoholics, authorized work to begin on a rewrite of AA's basic text. In doing so it has begun the process of dividing those in AA into two separate groups, one that will be working with the original text and one with the new version. When AA sacrifices one principle for another, such as unity for relatability, it has started the dubious process of eating itself to expand itself. Under the guise of reaching more alcoholics it will almost certainly fracture our fellowship as we now know it. Violating the first tradition of Unity is in essence violating all the traditions. How this can be seen as a prudent path for AA's future we cannot comprehend. In this time of enormous social change, we believe AA should be holding fast to its traditions and resisting calls for such change.

We must also acknowledge that as a society we are just beginning to emerge from one of the most challenging times in modern history. With AA meetings all over the world shut down for in person meetings and readjusting to virtual formats, we have faced enormous challenges in our mission of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. We also want to acknowledge the challenges the sober alcoholic has faced with respect to losing that so vital power of our face-to-face fellowship. Acknowledging these challenges, it is inconceivable the GSC would conclude broad changes to AA are justified at this time.

To highlight what would seem to be a significant lack of awareness of how difficult and limiting the past 18 months have been we will point to the letter from the Grapevine Board Chair regarding the preamble change.^{vii} In the first sentence of the fourth paragraph, he states "The topic was actively discussed in groups across the United States and Canada for two years over both the 70th and 71st General Service conference panels." I have spoken to dozens of AA members, both men and women. Other than our district officers, no one was aware background material existed. And, while it was made available to GSRs via an email, no AA group members I spoke to were aware of that material and how important it was in coming to an 'informed' group conscience. While we must acknowledge this breakdown in communication inside the service structure has many causes, including the responsibility of each member to seek out such information, it is unlikely the will of the AA fellowship was represented in the feedback from the groups across the US and Canada. It is simply a falsehood to say it was actively discussed in groups!

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Furthermore, during recent discussions between our district and the Area 59 delegate it was revealed that no area conscience was discussed and voted on regarding the preamble change in preparation for the 2021 GSC meeting. Our area delegate stated she relied on the area conscience vote from the previous year, 2020, and the pre-conference sharing session feedback from 2021. It is important to note that 2020 was a voting year in Area 59. This means that an entirely new panel of GSRs and DCMs was in place starting in January 2021. In addition, since no discussion or vote took place inside the area service structure, all the group members and GSRs that relied on the communication through district, rather than the pre-conference sharing or goggle forum, did not have their voices heard on this important issue. Our area delegate also stated that the area conscience did not support the production of the plain language big book. She said changes to that agenda item during the GSC meeting supported her vote in favor of the plain language version BB and against the area conscience on that issue. While we acknowledge the third concept of world service that gives delegates “The Right of Decision”, we view what happened as a violation of its spirit. We ask, weren’t the newly impaneled GSRs and DCMs in Area 59 deprived of that same “Right of Decision” regarding the preamble discussion? Do the events described in this paragraph sound like a loving God expressing himself in our AA conscience?^{viii}

While some might argue that the changes made by the GSC are small and do not substantially change AA, we disagree. We believe that this is just the beginning of what will be the remaking of AA. We point to the name of the 2022 conference meeting as an indication of this intent, “AA Comes of Age 2.0, Unified in Love and Service”. While we will acknowledge that the 71st GSC was unified in its mission, it is not so clear that the unity of AA in the future was its primary aim. And, while some might say we are reading too far into motives that cannot be known, the time in AA history that is referenced by “AA comes of Age” is undeniably a time in AA history with great change. For us, the publication of a rewritten big book as conference approved literature, regardless of how it is characterized, would qualify as a broad and sweeping change to AA. This we are squarely against!

In closing we would like to refer to the forward to the 4th edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.^{ix} The last paragraph starts with “While our literature has preserved the integrity of the A.A. message, sweeping changes in society as a whole are reflected in new customs and practices within the Fellowship”. We are not suggesting AA remain forever unchanged, but that “the integrity of the A.A. message” not be sacrificed by a GSC motivated to ‘come of age’. We hope that you, the GSC members, might reflect on this letter and the changes the 2021 conference has made. Please consider whether they are in the best interest of AA unity as well as its long-term future. We thank you for your time and for your service to AA. We look forward to all responses.

Sincerely,

Advent Men’s Group

Adventmensgroup16@gmail.com

A brief group qualification – We are roughly 15 or so alcoholic men ranging in age from 25 to 70, with lengths of sobriety from 6 months to 50 years. While we are categorized as a closed men’s group, anyone who seeks AA’s message of recovery is welcome. From time to time, a woman or two

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members’ full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

have arrived at our meeting. They have always been told they are welcome to attend. Our doors are open to *all* with a desire to stop drinking.

References:

-
- i 12 & 12 – Tradition 4 – page 149
 - ii 71st GSC Background – Grapevine Item E – Doc 2
 - iii The AA Service Manual – page S20
 - iv 71st GSC Background – Grapevine Item E – Doc 3 page 7
 - v The book Alcoholics Anonymous – page 62
 - vi 12 & 12 – Step 1 – page 24
 - vii Grapevine Inc. Memo from Josh E dated May 28, 2021
 - viii AA's Tradition Two
 - ix The book Alcoholics Anonymous – page xxiv

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no "one size fits all" procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.
Cease and desist the printing of the "reformatted" Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
(2) What problem does this proposed item address?
The passing of a motion which was not expression of AA as a whole as it was not taken back to all the individual groups to be able to vote for or against based on their group conscience
(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).
<i>Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.</i>
Individual
(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:
The Washontoians: slavery and liquor The Oxford Group: Religion and anonymity The Emanuel Movement: Money These groups ceased to exist after allowing these outside issues into their AA

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?
The proposal of the reformatted version of the Twelve steps and Twelve Traditions be resubmitted in the correct manner and proceed through the correct steps for a true group conscience as to whether the proposal of a revised edition of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be implemented
(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.
Deborah B
(7) Final comments:
Having been sober for over 35 years, it is hard to believe that such action has been able to take place by so few. Voted during the pandemic and passed with no notice to groups to take a vote and send it in. This is totally against our traditions. The voting table should be ashamed of themselves to take it there hands and believe they had the power to do this. We need to change our 12 & 12 back to our original version. No exceptions

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
 General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station New
 York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

1) **SUBMIT A CLEAR AND CONCISELY WORDED MOTION.**

The "Seven deadly sins" references in AA literature will be made permanent and unchanged.

2) **WHAT PROBLEM DOES THIS PROPOSED ITEM ADDRESS?**

It preserves an historic and essential tool in examining character defects and taking personal inventory.

3) **WHAT LEVEL OF GROUP CONSCIENCE, IF ANY, DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM? MAKE IT CLEAR WHO IS SUBMITTING THE ITEM (individual, group, etc)**

Guilbeau Group G.C.

Laura S [redacted], GSR submitted on 9/15/22

4) **PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION THAT DESCRIBES AND SUPPORTS THE REASONING FOR THE PROPOSAL. LIST BACKGROUND MATERIAL(S) INCLUDED WITH THE PROPOSAL:**

The "Seven Deadly Sins" provide an irreplaceable baseline for alcoholics seeking to comprehend & address character defects.

The AA 12x12.

5) **WHAT ARE THE INTENDED/EXPECTED OUTCOMES IF THIS PROPOSAL ITEM IS APPROVED?**

"The seven deadly sins" as discussed in AA literature will remain permanent and unchanged.

6) **PROVIDE A PRIMARY CONTACT FOR THE SUBMISSION.**

Laura S [redacted], GSR for Guilbeau Group San Antonio, TX

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] @gmail.com

7) **FINAL COMMENTS:**

Thank you.

**General Service Conference (G.S.C.)
Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form**

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Rescind the actions taken under the Advisory Action of the 71st General Service Conference for changes made to the text of certain phrases on pages 66 and 117 of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Return the original 1953 wording of Bill W., delete footnotes, and revert back Introduction as follows:

1. Page 66
 - a. **Return To:** "...be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."
 - b. **From 71st Advisory Action:** "...commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."
 - c. **Delete Footnote:** "*This sentence has been updated from the original text to generalize the possible consequences of extreme emotions."

2. Page 117
 - a. **Return To:** "...desire to find a mate of the opposite sex..."
 - b. **From 71st Advisory Action:** "...desire to find a partner..."
 - c. **Delete Footnote:** "* This sentence has been updated from the original text to reflect the inclusivity of the Fellowship."

3. As a result of above items 1 and 2
 - a. The Introduction should revert back to the 2005 Advisory Action Introduction.
 - b. **Delete Sentence:** "However, with a focus on inclusivity, the 2021 General Service Conference updated and footnoted some of the original language for clarity."

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

The changes failed to preserve the words and spiritual experience of the AA Pioneers which shared collective experience from within the Fellowship of A.A. on recovery.

The original text conveys a descriptive understanding of the extreme emotions some alcoholics may experience. The updated language has selectively removed certain extreme outcomes from the associated sins.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

A.A. Group

Azalea Group

Tyler, TX

Group ID.: 00301914

District 42

North East Texas Area 65

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

The changes made in 2021 ignore the essential points put forth in the 2005 introduction itself:

Per Advisory Action - 2005 Introduction:

Introduction

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS first published Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in 1953. Bill W., who along with Dr. Bob S. founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions.

In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references in the book to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference discussed this issue and it was unanimously recommended that: "The text in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feelings that Bill's writing be retained as originally published."

We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

Preserve the first published words from 1953 of Bill W. who along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous. The book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions was written to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover and how our society functions.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Nelson E.
Group Alt-GSR
Azalea Group (Tyler TX)

(7) Final comments:

This PAI was unanimously approved in Group Conscience.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no "one size fits all" procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p> <p>1. Cease and desist the printing of the reworded changes made in the 12 and 12. Begin hte printing of the unchanged 12 and 12.</p> <p>2. Cease and desist the use of the word 'Reformatted" when the action taken is Rewrite.</p>
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p> <p>1. The passing of this motion claims to have been done in "the light of day" when in fact it was done in the mist of one of the worlds worst and deadly pandemics. Durning most AA meetings could not be held. Some were through services like Zoom. All to many members did not have access to this technology and could not be made aware of the issues and discussions like his.</p> <p>2. Because of the large divide created in our membership your "in the dark" actions is creating a tremendous BREAK IN UNITY. Issues such as this should have had the idea(s) to discuss mailed to Areas, Districts THEN to each regestered meetings GSR who could have discussed it by phone with its members. Your questionable course of action broke TRADITION ONE !!!!</p> <p>3. Allowing issues from the outside will destroy our movement.</p>
<p>(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).</p> <p><i>Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.</i></p> <p>Harry B`</p>
<p>(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:</p> <p>1. Staying consistant with the Conference commitments of 2002, 2003 and 2005 to not change any wording of the 12/12. Adding an introduction does not constitute changes to Bill W."s message.</p> <p>2. Breaks in UNITY complotely destroyed the following groups which had tremendous success: The Washontonians:Slavery/Liquor, The Oxford Group:Religon/Anonymity, Emanual Movment:Money.</p>

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?
Have the proposal of the "reformatted" items of the 12 and 12 be resubmitted in the proper fashion and then proceed thru the proper steps for a TRUE group conscience as to these proposals. Cease and Desist the continued use of the term "Reformatted" when the correct action was "Rewrite.
(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.
Harry B.
(7) Final comments:
Having been active in meetings, sponsorship, service in district and area committees and sobor for more than 36 years, it is impossible for me to believe that such action in the shadows of the Covid-19 death march world wide could create such changes and actions by so few. If you really think it was a majority vote then you are not pressing the flesh at the meeting level. All need to be reminded that our fellowship structure is THE INVERTED TRINGLE !!! The membership at the group level are the ones in charge of our direction.

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
 General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station New
 York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no "one size fits all" procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p>
<p>Cease and desist the "reformatted" 12 Steps and 12 Traditions back to it's original format.</p>
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p>
<p>The passing of a motion which was not the expression of AA as a whole as it was not taken back to all individual groups to be able to vote for or against based on their own group conscience.</p>
<p>(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).</p>
<p><i>Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.</i></p>
<p>Individual</p>
<p>(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:</p>
<p>The Washingtonians - slavery and liquor The Oxford Group - religion and anonymity The Emanuel Movement - money All of these groups ceased to exist after allowing these outside issues into AA</p>

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?
The proposal of the reformatted version of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions be resubmitted in the correct manner and the correct steps that have been used in AA; a group conscience.
(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.
Angela A.
(7) Final comments:
After being sober for over 6 years and having a sponsor teach me about the steps and traditions; I was disappointed by the actions that were taken.

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
 General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station New
 York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no “one size fits all” procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Conduct a survey to all A.A. groups in the U.S. and Canada asking if they want to keep the changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions made at the 71st GSC in 2021 or return to the original text, in order to get a clear group conscience.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

At the 72nd GSC an agenda item was presented to the Literature Committee to, “Discuss changes to the text of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions directed by the 71st General Service Conference.”

The Committee discussed and took no action, noting that **“there does not appear to be a consensus on the changes among A.A. members at the local level.”** *(A19 72nd GSC Final Report)*

However, in contradiction, the 72nd GSC background info states. **“The General Service Office received 40 requests to reverse or rescind one or more of these advisory actions, and/or to preserve, unaltered, the text of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, as originally published”** *(72nd GSC Background Information)*

Changing A.A. Literature is an important topic to the Fellowship, and it is vital we get a clear group conscience on this issue.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

This motion passed unanimously at the Group level.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

At the 72nd GSC an agenda item was presented to the Literature Committee to, "Discuss changes to the text of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions directed by the 71st General Service Conference."

The Committee discussed and took no action, noting that "there does not appear to be a consensus on the changes among A.A. members at the local level." (A19 7nd GSC Final Report)

A delegate report stated, the "Committee Chair felt that there was only a small population that did not want the changes and **no evidence of a group conscience** wanting to change back"

However, **in contradiction**, the 72nd GSC background info states. "**The General Service Office received 40 requests to reverse or rescind one or more of these advisory actions, and/or to preserve, unaltered, the text of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, as originally published**" (72nd GSC Background Information)

In the 1980s, a similar discussion came up in A.A. with the gay community. They wanted changes to the A.A. literature. In response, the GSO sent a survey to all A.A. groups.

The groups voted and decided not to change A.A. literature. This advisory action passed at the 1984 GSC:

1984 Conference (Literature):

The words "queers" (p. 140) in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* not be changed to "homosexuals and lesbians," **recognizing Fellowship feeling that Bill Wilson's textbook writings be retained as originally published.**

The group conscience of A.A. was heard.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

Send out a survey to all A.A. groups in the U.S. and Canada asking if they want to keep the changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions made at the 71st GSC in 2021 or return to the original text.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Maggie W.

(7) Final comments:

Let's keep in mind **Tradition 2**:

“For our group purpose **there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.** Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions)

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL:

Attn: Conference Desk
General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station New
York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no "one size fits all" procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Changes to Bill W.'s writing in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, made in 2021 be returned to the original text:

-The change to Page 117, replacing the phrase "opposite sex" with the word "partner" and adding the footnote "This sentence has been updated from the original text to reflect the inclusivity of the Fellowship." be returned to the original text.

And

-The change to Page 66, replacing "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health." with "No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony." and adding the footnote "This sentence has been updated from the original text to generalize the possible consequences of extreme emotion." be returned to the original text.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

This item addresses the problems created by changing Bill W.'s writings in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in 2021 that **threaten our Unity**:

- 1) **Outside issues are being brought into AA and into AA literature. Per Tradition 10 it states that "Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues." Outside issues destroy our Unity.**
- 2) **The easier, softer way has never worked for Alcoholics. This threatens our focus on a spiritual way of life.**
- 3) **Changing the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions creates Disunity between groups, which goes against Tradition 1 and will destroy our Fellowship. Other sobriety movements before A.A. died from this.**
- 4) **These changes create Disunity by going against the tradition of protecting Bill's writings to have a unified message.**

Bill wrote regarding Tradition 1:

"The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or A.A. dies. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back again in their caves, alcoholics would reproach us and say, "What a great thing A.A. might have been!" – Bill W.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Pg. 129)

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

This motion passed unanimously at the Group level.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

In 2021, the GSC passed an agenda item to change the text on page 66 of the 12&12 which read:

"No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health." to read:
"No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

This new version of the book has already been printed and in circulation and includes a footnote which reads: "This sentence has been updated from the original text to generalize the possible consequences of extreme emotion."

Here is the original text on the left and the new book that is being sold right now on the right:

66

STEP SIX

with all the honesty that we can summon, is to *try* to have it. Even then the best of us will discover to our dismay that there is always a sticking point, a point at which we say, "No, I can't give this up yet." And we shall often tread on even more dangerous ground when we cry, "This I will *never* give up!" Such is the power of our instincts to overreach themselves. No matter how far we have progressed, desires will always be found which oppose the grace of God.

Some who feel they have done well may dispute this, so let's try to think it through a little further. Practically everybody wishes to be rid of his most glaring and destructive handicaps. No one wants to be so proud that he is scorned as a braggart, nor so greedy that he is labeled a thief. No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health. No one wants to be agonized by the chronic pain of envy or to be paralyzed by sloth. Of course, most human beings don't suffer these defects at these rock-bottom levels.

We who have escaped these extremes are apt to congratulate ourselves. Yet can we? After all, hasn't it been self-interest, pure and simple, that has enabled most of us to escape? Not much spiritual effort is involved in avoiding excesses which will bring us punishment anyway. But when we face up to the less violent aspects of these very same defects, *then* where do we stand?

What we must recognize now is that we exult in some of our defects. We really love them. Who, for example, doesn't like to feel just a little superior to the next fellow, or even quite a lot superior? Isn't it true that we like to let greed masquerade as ambition? To think of *liking* lust seems im-

66

STEP SIX

it. Even then the best of us will discover to our dismay that there is always a sticking point, a point at which we say, "No, I can't give this up yet." And we shall often tread on even more dangerous ground when we cry, "This I will *never* give up!" Such is the power of our instincts to overreach themselves. No matter how far we have progressed, desires will always be found which oppose the grace of God.

Some who feel they have done well may dispute this, so let's try to think it through a little further. Practically everybody wishes to be rid of his most glaring and destructive handicaps. No one wants to be so proud that he is scorned as a braggart, nor so greedy that he is labeled a thief. No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony. No one wants to be agonized by the chronic pain of envy or to be paralyzed by sloth. Of course, most human beings don't suffer these defects at these rock-bottom levels.

We who have escaped these extremes are apt to congratulate ourselves. Yet can we? After all, hasn't it been self-interest, pure and simple, that has enabled most of us to escape? Not much spiritual effort is involved in avoiding excesses which will bring us punishment anyway. But when we face up to the less violent aspects of these very same defects, *then* where do we stand?

What we must recognize now is that we exult in some of our defects. We really love them. Who, for example, doesn't like to feel just a little superior to the next fellow, or even quite a lot superior? Isn't it true that we like to let greed

*This sentence has been updated from the original text to generalize the possible consequences of extreme emotions.

This change actually makes no sense in the context of this paragraph in Step 6. The paragraph is *supposed* to talk about extreme examples and then later how we need to watch out for lesser versions of these deadly sins.

Also in 2021, the GSC passed an agenda item to change the text on page 117 of the 12&12 which read:

"Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex." to read: "Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner."

This new version of the book has already been printed and in circulation and includes a footnote which reads: "This sentence has been updated from the original text to reflect the inclusivity of the Fellowship."

Here is the original text on the left and the new book that is being sold right now on the right:

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

passersby. We were still trying to find emotional security by being dominating or dependent upon others. Even when our fortunes had not ebbed that much and we nevertheless found ourselves alone in the world, we still vainly tried to be secure by some unhealthy kind of domination or dependence. For those of us who were like that, A.A. had a very special meaning. Through it we begin to learn right relations with people who understand us; we don't have to be alone any more.

Most married folks in A.A. have very happy homes. To a surprising extent, A.A. has offset the damage to family life brought about by years of alcoholism. But just like all other societies, we do have sex and marital problems, and sometimes they are distressingly acute. Permanent marriage breakups and separations, however, are unusual in A.A. Our main problem is not how we are to stay married; it is how to be more happily married by eliminating the severe emotional twists that have so often stemmed from alcoholism.

Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made — spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way. So our question will be this: How, by ignorance, compulsion, and self-will, do we misuse this gift for our own destruction? We A.A. cannot pretend to offer full answers to age-old perplexities, but our own experience does provide certain answers that work for us.

our fortunes had not ebbed that much and we nevertheless found ourselves alone in the world, we still vainly tried to be secure by some unhealthy kind of domination or dependence. For those of us who were like that, A.A. had a very special meaning. Through it we begin to learn right relations with people who understand us; we don't have to be alone any more.

Most married folks in A.A. have very happy homes. To a surprising extent, A.A. has offset the damage to family life brought about by years of alcoholism. But just like all other societies, we do have sex and marital problems, and sometimes they are distressingly acute. Permanent marriage breakups and separations, however, are unusual in A.A. Our main problem is not how we are to stay married; it is how to be more happily married by eliminating the severe emotional twists that have so often stemmed from alcoholism.

Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made—spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical.* This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way. So our question will be this: How, by ignorance, compulsion, and self-will, do we misuse this gift for our own destruction? We A.A.'s cannot pretend to offer full answers to age-old perplexities, but our own experience does provide certain answers that work for us.

* This sentence has been updated from the original text to reflect the inclusivity of the Fellowship.

They even tried to say it's not a change:

Copyright © 1952, 1953, 1981 by AA Grapevine, Inc.
and Alcoholics Anonymous Publishing
(now known as Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.)

All rights reserved
First Printing, April 1953

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

Reformatted and footnoted June 2021 in accordance
with Advisory Actions of the 71st General Service Conference.

Don't know why it says that. It was not reformatted. It was changed.

These changes threaten our Unity, our most cherished quality.

1) Outside issues are being brought into AA and into AA literature. Per Tradition 10 it states that "Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues." Outside issues destroy our Unity.

Gender/language politics is still politics and an outside issue. Whether this is a good or bad issue does not matter. It just doesn't belong in our spiritual program because it goes against the Traditions. Getting involved in outside issues has never fared well for Alcoholics.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

The Washingtonian Movement did not keep outside political issues out of their organization, and they ceased to exist. They started with 6 drinking buddies in 1840. By 1842, they had over a million members that had signed their pledge for complete abstinence from alcohol. By 1848, the movement destroyed itself completely and dropped out of sight.

(<https://historyengine.richmond.edu/episodes/view/4139>), ("Slaying the Dragon – The History of Addiction Treatment in America."), ("The Washingtonians: A brief history of the organization that grew strong helping suffering alcoholics and then withered away when it lost track of its primary purpose", Copyright © The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., February 1971)

So, what happened?

1) There was division within groups as men took their stand on the issue of slavery.

("History Offers Good Lesson for A.A.", Copyright © The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., July 1945)

2) "Helping drunks, became an increasingly secondary interest of those whose primary interest was the furtherance of the temperance cause" -Milton A. Maxwell, Ph.D. 1950

("Fragments Of AA History The Washingtonians", Copyright © The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., January 1991)

They took on a noble cause of their time, slavery, and prohibition and as a result, their group fragmented and perished completely within a few years. Alcoholics Anonymous cannot afford to stray from its primary purpose.

What do the Washingtonians have to do with A.A.?

Outside political issues of pronoun, gender and language politics are coming into our A.A. Fellowship through literature changes, creating **Disunity**. Movements before AA were all destroyed by this same Disunity.

2) The easier, softer way has never worked for Alcoholics. This threatens our focus on a spiritual way of life.

Changing pronouns and "harsh" language is only the beginning. It will end with the removal of the word "God" from our literature because it's "offensive."

The end of Alcoholics Anonymous sounds like this: "...Sure way back in the 1930's AA was helpful... but now we have new modern "medical professionals" who have empirical evidence "proving" "modern medicine" can "truly" help alcoholics much more effectively by way of medication and paying a "professional" to listen to them."

Alcoholics Anonymous has been in a slow decline of support for and action upon the 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our Traditions are what separates Alcoholics Anonymous from all the other groups or movements throughout all of recorded history. NO ONE has ever been as successful, for anywhere near as long as Alcoholics Anonymous has been when it comes to helping drunks get and stay sober.

I think Bill said it best:

"I wish every AA could indelibly burn the history of the Washingtonians into his memory. It is an outstanding example of how, and how not, we ought to conduct ourselves. **In a sense, Alcoholics Anonymous has never had a problem seriously threatening our overall unity. Yet I notice that some AAs are complacent enough to suppose we never shall....** They had no capacity for minding their own business...."

-Bill W. (*"A Reminder And A Warning..."*, Copyright © The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., July 1976)

3) Changing the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions creates Disunity between groups, which goes against Tradition 1 and will destroy our Fellowship. Other sobriety movements before A.A. died from this.

If we continue down this road, the entire 12 & 12 will be rewritten to be "less severe" and "politically correct." Groups will reject this book and we will have no unified message.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Meetings will be use two different versions of the 12&12. The newcomer (or old-timer) will look up a meeting on their app and find “Beginners 12&12.” They’ll walk into the meeting and then have no idea what book people are reading, because they have a completely different “easier, softer” version.

Tradition 1 states, “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.” (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*)

Bill was a smart guy. He put Step 1 first because it’s the most important. Same with Tradition 1. Without Unity, A.A. will cease to exist.

4) These changes create Disunity by going against the tradition of protecting Bill’s writings to have a unified message.

There has always been a strong sentiment within the Fellowship to not change any of Bill’s writings because one change would open the door up for all of Bill’s writing to be changed.

This is not the first time these kinds of changes have been proposed based on social issues of the time. There is a history of past advisory actions protecting Bill’s writings:

1984 Conference (Literature):

The words “queers” (p. 140) in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* not be changed to “homosexuals and lesbians,” **recognizing Fellowship feeling that Bill Wilson’s textbook writings be retained as originally published.**

1986 Conference (Literature):

The A.A.W.S. editorial staff continue to degenderize A.A. literature, **with the exception of Bill W.’s writings**, as the items are reprinted, e.g., “staffing the booth” rather than “manning the booth,” etc.

1992 Conference (Literature):

The 1986 Advisory Actions (listed below) pertaining to sexist language in the Big Book and other Bill W. writings adequately address the issue:

“As the preface to the Big Book clearly states that the text was written in 1939 and that it has not been changed, no further explanation regarding out-of-date phrases and/or gender-oriented pronouns or chapter titles is necessary.” (Advisory Action #31)

1995 Conference (Literature):

The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.

2002 Conference (Literature):

The text in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship’s feeling that Bill’s writings be retained as originally published.

2003 Conference (Literature):

A draft Introduction to be added to the front matter of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be developed ... to create a unified response to questions regarding specific language, idioms, and historical figures or events from A.A. members, newcomers and nonalcoholics.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members’ full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

2005 Conference (Literature):

The following introduction be added to the front matter of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*:

Introduction

*Alcoholics Anonymous first published this book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, in 1953. Bill W., who, along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions.*

*In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, **because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it.** In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference discussed this issue and **“it was unanimously recommended that the text in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship’s feeling that Bill’s writing be retained as originally published.”***

We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program.

We have a unified message and maintain our Unity by retaining our A.A. literature as originally published.

Bill said, “As sobriety means long life and happiness for the individual, so does unity mean exactly the same thing to our Society as a whole. Unified we live; disunited we shall perish.” (*Letter, 1949, “As Bill Sees It”*)

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

The changes to Bill W.’s writing in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, made in 2021 be returned to the original text:

-The change to Page 117, replacing the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” and adding the footnote “This sentence has been updated from the original text to reflect the inclusivity of the Fellowship.” be returned to the original text.

And

-The change to Page 66, replacing "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health." with "No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony." and adding the footnote “This sentence has been updated from the original text to generalize the possible consequences of extreme emotion.” be returned to the original text.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members’ full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Maggie W.

(7) Final comments:

“Though many of us have had to struggle for sobriety, never yet has this Fellowship had to struggle for lost unity. Consequently, we sometimes take this one great gift for granted. We forget that, should we lose our unity, the millions of alcoholics who still “do not know” might never get their chance.”

-Bill W.

(Letter, 1949 “As Bill Sees It”)

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
 General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station New
 York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no "one size fits all" procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

To rescind the changes made to the book Twelve Steps + Twelve Traditions by the 71st GSC so the historical content of Bill's writings can remain with the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

The loss of our original historical text which could affect the unity of our Fellowship

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

This item has been discussed at Area 38 / District 20. Voted unanimously to propose this item as a District. District 20
PO Box 42
Troy, MO 63379

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

The Advisory Action in 2002 related to the book 12+12.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

Restoring the original text of the 12+12 and preserving the unity of the Fellowship.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Robert W [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(7) Final comments:

The 12+12 has endured for over 72 years. We do not want to lose our original text written by Bill W.

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

[back to Cover page](#)

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL:

Attn: Conference Desk
General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station New
York, NY 10163

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Updated 7/22

Book: *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*
History: Proposed Changes and Editorial Updates
2002 - Current

Part 1: Conference Advisory Actions

Year	Advisory Action
2002	The text in the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> , written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published.
2003	<p>A draft Introduction to be added to the front matter of the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> be developed by the General Service Office's Publications Department and reviewed by the trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The purpose of adding an Introduction would be to explain the language in <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> and would include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time and era of publication • Language as a reflection of the time period <p>Reference to the 2002 Conference Advisory Action: "It was unanimously recommended that the text in the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, written by Bill Wilson remain as is recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published."</p> <p>This Introduction is to create a unified response to questions regarding specific language, idioms, and historical figures or events from A.A. members, newcomers and non-alcoholics.</p>

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

<p>2005</p>	<p>The following introduction be added to the front matter of <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introduction</p> <p>Alcoholics Anonymous first published this book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, in 1953. Bill W., who, along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions.</p> <p>In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference discussed this issue and “it was unanimously recommended that the text in the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship’s feeling that Bill’s writing be retained as originally published.”</p> <p>We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program.</p>
<p>2021</p>	<p>1. A revision be made to page 117 in the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, replacing the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The text on page 117 which currently reads:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way "</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Be revised to read:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way "</p>

<p>2021</p>	<p>2. The sentence which includes the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six” of the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The text on page 66 which currently reads:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">"No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Be revised to read:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">"No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Long Form of each Tradition be included at the end of each essay for that Tradition in the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, and that the complete set of Traditions at the back of the book be retained as is.</p> <p>3. The sentence which includes the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six” of the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The text on page 66 which currently reads:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">"No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Be revised to read:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">"No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Long Form of each Tradition be included at the end of each essay for that Tradition in the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, and that the complete set of Traditions at the back of the book be retained as is.</p>
--------------------	---

Part 2: Conference Committee on Literature - Committee Considerations

Year	Committee Consideration
2002	Taking into consideration previous Conference Advisory Actions addressing the historical context of Bill Wilson’s writings, the committee requested that the trustees’ Literature Committee consider adding a statement to the Foreword of the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> explaining the historical context of Bill’s writings and report back to the 2003 Conference Literature Committee.
2004	After lengthy discussion, the committee requested that the Publications Department rewrite the draft introduction to be added to the front matter of the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> , as recommended by the 2003 General Service Conference, taking into consideration suggestions from the committee, and present it to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee following review by the trustees’ Literature Committee.
2015	The committee reviewed a suggestion to produce a book combining Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with the Twelve Concepts for World Service and took no action. The committee noted that the Twelve Concepts for World Service are suitably placed with the “A.A. Service Manual” and in a stand-alone volume.

Part 3: Committee Recommendations Failed to Pass

Year	Action
2018	<p>That the trustees' Literature Committee develop a new book, combining <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> with <i>Twelve Concepts for World Service</i>, and bring back a progress report or draft manuscript to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.</p> <p>Note: This item failed to receive the three quarters vote necessary to become an Advisory Action on the Conference Floor.</p>
2019	<p>Text be added to the foreword of the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> as follows (Bold text reflects addition):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“A.A.’s Twelve Steps are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which, if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“A.A.’s Twelve Traditions apply to the life of the Fellowship itself. They outline the means by which A.A. maintains its unity and relates itself to the world about it, the way it lives and grows.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“A.A.’s Twelve Concepts for World Service are an interpretation of A.A.’s world service structure. The Concepts provide guidelines for carrying the message to thousands of suffering alcoholics yet to come. They aim to record the ‘why’ of our service structure. They may be found in The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service.”</p> <p>Note: This item failed to receive the three quarters vote necessary to become an Advisory Action on the Conference Floor.</p>

Part 4: Trustees' Literature Committee

Year	Report
July 2002	The committee discussed the request from the 2002 Conference Literature Committee that the committee consider adding a statement to the Foreword of <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> explaining the historical context of Bill W.'s writings and agreed to take no action. The committee secretary will forward a report on this request from Tom Jasper, Acting Publications Director, to the 2003 Conference Literature Committee for their information.
November 2002	The committee discussed a suggestion to add the Twelve Concepts (short form) to the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> and took no action.
August 2003	In response to a 2003 General Service Conference Advisory Action, the committee reviewed a preliminary draft of the introduction to the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> developed by the Publications Department. The committee made some suggestions and requested that a revised draft be presented to the committee at the November 2003 meeting.
November 2003	The committee reviewed the draft Introduction to be added to the front matter of the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> and agreed to forward to the 2004 Conference Committee on Literature for consideration.
July 2004	The committee discussed the 2004 Conference Literature Committee Additional Consideration "that the Publications Department rewrite the draft introduction to be added to the front matter of the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> , as recommended by the 2003 General Service Conference, taking into consideration suggestions from the committee, and present it to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee following review by the trustees' Literature Committee." The committee requested that the Publications Department rewrite the draft introduction taking into consideration the suggestions from the Conference Committee on Literature.
October 2004	the committee reviewed the draft introduction to be added to the front matter of the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> presented by Chris Cavanaugh, Publications Director. The committee requested Chris to revise the final paragraph maintaining the spirit of the sentiments expressed. The revised introduction will be considered by the committee at the January 2005 meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

January 2005	The committee reviewed the revised text presented by the Publications Department and agreed to forward the revised text of the draft Introduction of the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> in response to a request by the 2004 Conference Literature Committee to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee for consideration.
July 2005	The addition of the Introduction to the front matter in the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> has been completed in the hardcover, soft cover and pocket versions. The large print version will be completed by October 2005 and the gift edition will be completed in the next printing—by November 2005 [Archives Note: The Introduction was added to the 67th Printing, 2005 hardcover edition]
February 2008	The committee discussed and took no action on an area request “that the Twelve Concepts (short form) be added to the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> , and any other books or pamphlets deemed appropriate by the Conference Literature Committee.
July 2012	The committee continued to discuss a request to add the Twelve Concepts for World Service (with essays) to the current edition of the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> and took no action. G.S.O.’s Publications Department, along with staff, will continue to look for alternative ways to make information about A.A.’s Third Legacy available to the Fellowship. [Archives Note: This request was first discussed at the October 2011 TLC meeting]
August 2014	The committee agreed to forward to the 2015 Conference Committee on Literature a request to produce a book combining <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> with the <i>Twelve Concepts for World Service</i> .
January 2017	The committee considered a request for the revision to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and agreed to take no action; noting that the current introduction in the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> adequately addresses the issue of dated language, idioms, and historical references.
January 2019	The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature the request to revise the Foreword to the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> .
February 2020	1. The trustees’ Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature the request

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

	<p>to revise a paragraph in Step Twelve of the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>.</p> <p>2. The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature the request to revise paragraph six in Step Six of the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>.</p>
October 2020	<p>1. The committee considered adding the Long Form of each Tradition at the beginning of each essay for that Tradition in the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> and agreed to forward the item to the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature.</p> <p>2. The committee considered adding the Long Form of each Tradition at the beginning of each essay for that Tradition in the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> and agreed to table the item until the January 2021 meeting.</p>
January 2021	<p>The committee considered adding the Long Form of each Tradition at the beginning of each essay for that Tradition in the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> and agreed to forward the item to the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature.</p>

Part 5: Editorial Changes – Foreword

The changes in the Foreword are limited to updates to statistical data only. Refer to the table below that illustrates examples of the updated content.

Year/Printing	Content in the Foreword
April 2002/63rd Printing	<p>* In 2002 it is estimated that over two million have recovered through A.A.</p> <p>*In 2002, A.A. is established in approximately 150 countries.</p>
2003/38th Printing (Softcover)	<p>In 2003 it is estimated that over two million have recovered through A.A.</p> <p>*In 2003, A.A. is established in 150 countries.</p>

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

July 2004/66th Printing	<p>* In 2004 it is estimated that over two million have recovered through A.A.</p> <p>*In 2004, A.A. is established in approximately 150 countries.</p>
2006/43rd Printing (Softcover)	<p>In 2006 it is estimated that over two million have recovered through A.A.</p> <p>*In 2006, A.A. is established in more than 180 countries.</p>
February 2006/68th Printing	<p>In 2006 it is estimated that over two million have recovered through A.A.</p> <p>*In 2006, A.A. is established in more than 180 countries.</p>
2007/45th Printing (Softcover)	<p>In 2007 it is estimated that over two million have recovered through A.A.</p> <p>*In 2007, A.A. is established in more than 180 countries.</p>
May 2008/71st Printing	<p>*In 2008 it is estimated that over two million have recovered through A.A.</p> <p>*In 2008, A.A. is established in more than 180 countries.</p>
June 2013/Seventy-eight Printing	<p>* In 2013, it is estimated that over two million have recovered through A.A.</p> <p>* In 2013, A.A. is established in approximately 170 countries.</p>
December 2020/85th Printing	<p>* In 2020 it is estimated that over two million have recovered through A.A.</p> <p>*In 2020, A.A. is established in approximately 180 countries.</p>
January 2021/29th Printing (Large Print)	<p>* In 2020 it is estimated that over two million have recovered through A.A.</p> <p>*In 2020, A.A. is established in approximately 180 countries.</p>
March 2021/86th Printing	<p>* In 2020 it is estimated that over two million have recovered through A.A.</p> <p>*In 2020, A.A. is established in approximately 180 countries.</p>
July 2021/30th Printing (Large Print)	<p>* In 2021 it is estimated that over two million have recovered through A.A.</p> <p>*In 2021, A.A. is established in approximately 180 countries.</p>
July 2021/45th Printing (Gift Edition)	<p>* In 2021 it is estimated that over two million have recovered through A.A.</p> <p>*In 2021, A.A. is established in approximately 180 countries.</p>

Additional Information

The book contains notes marked with asterisks on the following pages, however dates these were first added have not been determined:

Step 12 – Page 118

** In adapted form, the Steps are also used by Al-Anon Family Groups. Not a part of A.A., this worldwide fellowship consists of spouses and other relatives or friends of alcoholics (in A.A. or still drinking). Its headquarters address is 1600 Corporate Landing Pkwy., Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617.*

Tradition Three – Page 140

** In 1954, the name of the Alcoholic Foundation, Inc. was changed to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. and the Foundation office is now the General Service Office.*

Tradition Four – Page 148

** In 1954, the name of the Alcoholic Foundation, Inc. was changed to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. and the Foundation office is now the General Service Office.*

Tradition Seven – Page 162

** In 1954, the name of the Alcoholic Foundation, Inc. was changed to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. and the Foundation office is now the General Service Office.*

Tradition Eight – Page 168

** In 1954, the name of the Alcoholic Foundation, Inc. was changed to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. and the Foundation office is now the General Service Office.*

Tradition Eight – Page 169

** The work of present-day staff members has no counterpart among the job categories of commercial organizations. These A.A.'s bring a wide range of business and professional experience to their service at The General Service Office.*

Tradition Nine – Page 173

** In 1954, the name of the Alcoholic Foundation, Inc. was changed to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. and the Foundation office is now the General Service Office.*

Tradition Eleven – Page 182

** In 1954, the name of the Alcoholic Foundation, Inc. was changed to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. and the Foundation office is now the General Service Office.*

GSO Archives/December 2021