

1st Agenda Item for the 2022 Conference: The Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*:

For the purpose of maintaining unity, we the fellowship should continue to follow the 1995 Advisory Action which states that the Appendices should remain as is. If the Appendices have been changed, they should be restored as they appear in the Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* and be continued into the proposed Fifth Edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. This advisory Action was reaffirmed in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 and remains in place today.

Background:

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.

1995 It was recommended that:

The first 164 pages of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Doctor Bob's Nightmare" and the Appendices remain as is.

2004 It was recommended that:

The punctuation in "Dr. Bob's Nightmare" in the Fourth Edition be restored as it appears in the Third Edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. (Floor Action) (First printing of the Fourth Edition had 7 commas in the Intro and 157 in the story for a total of 157 – This advisory action restored the 21 commas that were removed)

1986

As the preface to the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* clearly states that the text was written in 1939 and that it has not been changed, no further explanation regarding out-of-date phrases and/or gender-oriented pronouns or chapter titles is necessary.

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.

From The Preface:

Because this book has become the basic text for our Society and has helped such large numbers of alcoholic men and women to recovery, there exists strong sentiment against any radical changes being made in it. Therefore, the first portion of this volume, describing the A.A. recovery program, has been left largely untouched in the course of revisions made for the second, third, and fourth editions. The section called "The Doctor's Opinion" has been kept intact, just as it was originally written in 1939 by the late Dr. William D. Silkworth, our Society's great medical benefactor.

1955

Note: In presenting the updating of the first edition of the Big Book, Bill described the background of his long-range writing project and made the following points:

1. "*Not an iota*" of the first part of the text dealing with recovery principles had been change