

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Agenda Item for the 2022 Conference: The book, *Alcoholics Anonymous***

To maintain uniformity in our literature, a draft Introduction (similar to the Introduction found in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*) be added to the front matter of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* be developed by the General Service Office's Publications Department and reviewed by the trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 2022 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration.

### **Background:**

Note: The purpose of adding an Introduction would be to explain the language in *Alcoholics Anonymous* and would include the following information:

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

Reference to the 1995 Conference Advisory Action:

"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."

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.

*(This draft would be similar to the Introduction found in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to maintain uniformity in our literature)*

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In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship.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