**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,” “DoctorBob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.

**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.

**2002** It was recommended that:

Although the committee acknowledged the importance of electronic meetings to some A.A. members, the sentence “Fundamentally, though, the difference between an electronic meeting and the home group around the corner is only one of format,” in the last paragraph of the Foreword to the Fourth Edition, be deleted in future printings of the Big Book, *Alcoholic Anonymous.*

**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.

**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 Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous.* (Floor Action)

**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, alongwith Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935,wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experiencewithin the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, andhow 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.**”**