



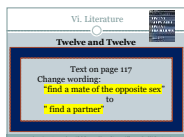
Area 16 Feedback

ROUND ROBIN REPORT

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Delegate
Panel 72 Area 16

Area 16 held a Round Robin Forum at our May 2023 Assembly with the focus being communication from our Area, to provide feedback on the numerous Agenda Items that have been submitted related to the changes approved by the 2021 General Service Conference that follow, noting the importance and interest of these Advisory Actions to the Fellowship.

Advisory Actions from the 71st General Service Conference:



A revision be made to page 117 in the book, 12 steps and 12 traditions, replacing the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” as follows, and

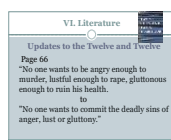
that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity:

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 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...”



The sentence which includes the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six” of the book, “12 Steps and 12 Traditions”, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that

The text on page 66 which currently reads:

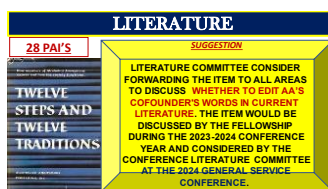
” No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health.”

Be revised to read:

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

- In response to these Advisory Actions the Fellowship submitted 34 PAI'S to the 72nd General Service Conference referring to the changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
- The Items were reviewed by the Trustees Committee on Literature.
- The Committee Took No Action:
- The Trustees' Literature Committee requested that the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature discuss changes to the text of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions directed by the 71st General Service Conference.
- At the 72nd General Service Conference the Conference Literature Committee took no action.
The Committee noted that there does not appear to be a consensus on the changes among A. A. members at the local level.
- **Floor Action #8:**
It was recommended that the Advisory Actions from Panel 71: in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, be returned to the original text. **Decline to consider.**

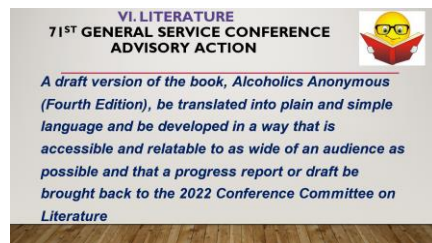
In response the Fellowship submitted 28 PAI'S on the **same** Advisory Actions to the 73rd General Service Conference



- The Trustee's' 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 Actions to the Fellowship.

- 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 a policy setting whether to edit AA's cofounder's words and, if so, then how to edit them 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.



*A draft version of the book, **Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)**, be **translated** into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.*

In response to this Advisory Action the Fellowship submitted 16 PAI'S to the 72nd General Service Conference referring to the development of the Plain Language Big Book.

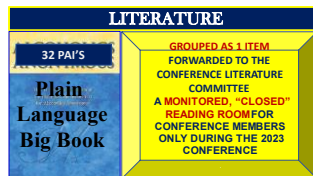
- The Trustees Committee on Literature Took No Action:

Oversight of the development of the plain language book is within the scope of TABB subcommittee. The committee requested that these observations inform a future progress report from the TABB subcommittee.

Floor Action #1:

It was recommended that:

The translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language, that the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts, not be translated into plain language in any way: that these remain in the existing form in English as in previous editions of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. **Decline to consider.**



In response the Fellowship submitted 32 PAI'S on the same Advisory Action to the 73rd General Service Conference

- The trustee's' Literature Committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee all new proposed agenda items related to the Plain Language Big Book as **one grouped item**.
- The committee also discussed requests from some members regarding access to the draft of the Plain Language Big Book.
- After due consultation, the committee agreed to provide a monitored, "closed" reading room for Conference members only during the 2023 General Service Conference, where Conference Literature Committee members will be given first viewing of draft chapters in a controlled environment.

- The Conference Committee discussed new proposed agenda items (PAI's) related to the plain language Big Book translation and took no action. The committee acknowledged the concerns of members, groups, and areas in the Fellowship regarding the oversight of the process of a translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth edition) into plain and simple language. The committee noted that these concerns will be addressed at a special session during the 2023 General Service.

A special session was held at the 73rd General Service Conference Delegates had an opportunity to share their thoughts on the draft.

At Area 16's Georgia State Service Assembly May 20, 2023, approximately 180 members assembled in circles of 15 to 20. Each group had a facilitator, a timekeeper, and a note taker. Each member was allowed 2 minutes to share on the question or topic. Each group received 2 questions or topics. The questions were distributed randomly.

The questions were:

A. Changes to the book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition" were implemented in two Advisory Actions at the 71st General Service Conference. Share your input regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders.

88 responses yielded.

43 - Don't change the words of the Founders.

3 - Literature is sacred. Not enough GSRs to come and participate. Recent changes were not made with a groundswell of support from current members.

3 - Bottom-up discussion. Questions come from the top, filter down to groups, discussed there and sent back up the chain. (doesn't seem to be getting anywhere).

2 - Possible future changes should go through 3 conferences at NY before changes to Founders literature.

2 - Everything that came from founders would have to have to be approved by 3/4ths of all groups in writing.

2 - Agenda comes from NY Feb 15-vote on in April 20. Minimum of two-year time frame for changes to books.

2 - Not opposed to change.

B. The development of the Plain Language Big Book is almost complete. Projected to be ready by June of 2023. There were numerous Agenda Items submitted for the Conference Agenda in 2022 and in 2023 from the fellowship with concerns about a translation of the 4th edition. Share your thoughts on the Translation of the 4th edition of Alcoholics Anonymous to Plain and Simple Language.

29 - No problem with it. If a PL BB can reach more people, great.

3 - This would be very useful to many people.

1 - This would be a new translation. The original BB will not go away. It could make the BB more accessible to a newcomer. Trust the process!

13 - If it's not broke don't fix it. Concerned that more translations will dilute the message.

6 - I have problems with the process. People in my district don't want it. I don't think the delegates were given enough time to review, digest, and weigh in.

3 - Plain language - not started at the grassroots level. Felt like conference directive rather than member driven.

3 - Totally against it. Feels that all of the changes made during the covid emergency should be reevaluated since there was lack of feedback and participation during that time.

Additional Questions

1. The Plain Language Big Book is designed to help members that might have difficulty reading “Alcoholics Anonymous”. Are there other options that might be helpful?
 - 10-Sponsor's responsibility to help someone understand
 - - Audiobooks
 - 2 - Sitting with someone and reading it to them.
2. Was there discussion in your District/Home Group on the Agenda Items for Conference concerning Literature changes to the Twelve and Twelve and/or the Plain Language Big Book translation?
 - 9 - Yes (mixed reviews, misinformation, heated discussions)
 - 9 - No (report but no discussion, unaware it was a translation)
3. GSR attendance at the Area 16 Assembly has declined in the past several years. What are your ideas to help encourage increased attendance and participation at the Area 16 Assembly from registered groups and their designated GSR?
4. What are your thoughts on possibly developing a plain language translation of the Twelve and Twelve?
 - 12 - No changes to the Twelve and Twelve.
 - 01 - Use money to Translate to foreign languages.
5. How does your Voice reach the General Service Conference? Are you familiar with Agenda Item Submission Forms (PAIs)?

- 21 Not familiar with PAI'S
- 11 Informed by GSR's and DCM's
- 9 our voice is not heard by the General Service Conference

A spreadsheet with all of the notes taken from the comments made by participants in the Round Robin will be available on aageorgia.org along with this report. I want to thank all of you for participating.