

## February 2022 Literature Committee Report

This month we would like to provide an example of how informative Agenda Item background information is. This example demonstrates how A.A. members who read the background information for Agenda items are fully informed about the question at hand (as opposed to not reading the background information and not being fully informed).

The example being used here is the decision to change the text of the book *Steps and Twelve Traditions as directed by the 71st General Service Conference.* (Last year's conference approved the request to **remove the phrase "of the opposite sex" from paragraph two on page 117 in the chapter "Step Twelve"**)

Original Paragraph: "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. ..." {The rest of the paragraph would remain unchanged}

As directed by the 71st General Service Conference the following paragraph was implemented: "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 rest of the paragraph would remain unchanged}

### Background for the change:

- When this paragraph states that "'every sound human' desires to find a mate 'of the opposite sex' with whom the fullest union can be made" and states, "God fashioned us that way", it is in conflict with Tradition Ten. This statement reflects religious beliefs. A.A. has no opinion on outside affiliations, let alone stating God's will towards sexual preferences.
- Tradition 3 tells us that the only requirement for membership is the desire to stop drinking. Telling any alcoholic that their lifestyle preference is not 'sound' or that it goes against God's Will says to them that they are different, and could have them question whether they are accepted in the fellowship.
- Tradition 2 tells us for our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express himself in our group conscience.

Members who want the original language restored must address the points made in the original request. We are asked to make decisions based on principle, not personal likes and dislikes.

Racism, gender identification, sexism, religion and related barriers are outside issues as they relate to Twelfth Step work.

### Quotes from A.A. co-founder Bill W on inclusivity:

"Since the audience for the book is likely to be newcomers, anything from the point of view of content or style that might offend or alienate those who are not familiar with the program should be carefully eliminated."

and

*“We have atheists and agnostics. We have people of nearly every race, culture and religion. In A.A. we are supposed to be bound together in the kinship of a common suffering. Consequently, the full individual liberty to practice any creed or principle or therapy whatever should be a first consideration for us all. Let us not, therefore, pressure anyone with our individual or even our collective views. Let us instead accord each other the respect and love that is due to every human being as he tries to make his way toward the light. Let us always try to be inclusive rather than exclusive; let us remember that each alcoholic among us is a member of A.A., so long as he or she declares.”*

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Below are the Literature Agenda Items for the 72nd General Service Conference. Please note some Literature agenda items have been assigned to other committees in accordance with the advisory action from 71st GSC “Equitable Distribution of Workload.” Those committees are responsible for presenting the assigned agenda items to the GSRs.

<b><u>72nd General Service Conference Committees</u></b>	
<b><u>Literature Agenda Items</u></b>	
<i>* note agenda items assigned to other committees in accordance with the advisory action from 71st GSC “Equitable Distribution of Workload”</i>	
<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Literature-Related Agenda Items</u></b> <i>note agenda items assigned to other committees in accordance with the advisory action from 71st GSC “Equitable Distribution of Workload”</i>
<b>III. Corrections*</b>	
C. Consider requests to limit changes to the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> .	
D. Discuss request to make A.A. literature changes slowly and with A.A.’s primary purpose in mind.	
<b>IV. Finance*</b>	
B. Consider request to add a historical disclaimer to the front of the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> .	
C. Consider request that all proposed changes to the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> be handled in footnotes.	

## VII. Policy/Admissions\*

F. Consider request to restore a paragraph in the story “Freedom from Bondage” in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

G. Consider request to revise the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship.

## IX. Report and Charter\*

D. Consider request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet “G.S.R.: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole.”

E. Consider requests that the chapter titled “The Doctor’s Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition.

## X. Treatment and Accessibilities\*

F. Consider request to revise the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” to reflect the importance of the group as a “spiritual entity” as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five.

G. Consider request to revise text in the chapter “Getting plenty of rest” in the booklet *Living Sober*.

## XI. Trustees\*

F. Consider revising text highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group.”

G. Consider request to revise the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?” to include stories reflecting greater diversity.

## VI. Literature

A. Annual review of recovery literature matrix.

B. Review draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included in *Living Sober* and the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”

C. Review draft pamphlet based on A.A.’s Three Legacies.

- D. Review draft pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”
- E. Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”
- F. Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?”
- G. Review draft of the revised pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
- H. Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.”
- I. Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”
- J. Review progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book Alcohólicos Anónimos.
- K. Review progress report regarding the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.
- L. Review progress report regarding requests to develop study guide workbooks for A.A.
- M. Review progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.
- N. Discuss the existing version of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
- O. Discuss G.S.O. Publishing updates per the A.A.W.S. print policy:
  - 1. Review the draft update of the pamphlet “Is A.A. for You?”
  - 2. Review the draft update of the pamphlet “Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?”
  - 3. Review the draft update of the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.”
  - 4. Review the draft update of the pamphlet “This Is A.A.”
- P. Review progress report regarding strategy to make current literature accessible in all possible formats.
- Q. Review progress report regarding Literature Committee workbook.
- R. Discuss changes to the text of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as directed by the 71st General Service Conference.

Next month we will present background information on Literature Agenda Items N. and R.

Along with the other reports already posted, this report is posted on the Literature Committee page in the District 5 website [aadistrict5.org](http://aadistrict5.org).

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

With gratitude and love,

Your friend,

Jeanette C.

Literature Committee Chair (Panel 71)

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***Alive in District 5***

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