

**(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.**

The 2002 Conference unanimously recommended the Advisory Action 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. We propose that changes made by the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference:

Advisory Action 18 for changes to page 117 phrase "opposite sex" with the word "partner"

Advisory Action 19 changes to page 66, "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health" with "No one want to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony"

in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, be returned to their original text.

Note: This would include the Introduction be returned to its original text.

**(2) What problem does this proposed item address?**

The 2002 Conference Advisory Action 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. Up to 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference, Bill Wilson's writings, essays were not changed in the Book Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions. We feel that Bill Wilson's Essays should not be changed.

**(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).**

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

The Group Conscience of the Hibbing Downtown Group, Hibbing MN, Area 35 Northern MN, unanimously approved this proposal on June 19, 2023. The Group Conscience of District 9 Area 35 Northern MN approved this proposal with substantial unanimity on June 25, 1923

**(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal.**

2002 Conference Advisory Action recommended that: The text in the book, Twelve Steps ad Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published. \* The conference from year to year has shown that it is reluctant to change anything that Bill wrote and even though the language may be out of date, the willingness to change anything hasn't been there and it remained this through several conferences.

2003 Conference Advisory Action recommended that: A draft Introduction to be added to the front matter of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be developed by the General Service Office Publications Department and reviewed by the trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration.

2005 Conference Advisory Action Recommended that : The following introduction be added to the front matter of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions: See attached background information from the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference. See newest version of the Introduction.

**(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed items is approved?**

We would recognize the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published. The conference from year to year has shown that it is reluctant to change anything that Bill wrote and even though the language may be out of date, the willingness to change anything hasn't been there and it remained this through several conferences. We feel that 2005 Introduction to the

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions explains the language in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions which includes:

The time and era of the publication

The language as a reflection of the time period.

**(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.**

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**(7) Final Comments:**

Thank you for consideration of the proposal and hopefully it will be presented to the 74th General Service Conference for a vote.

Conference Advisory Actions related to Area 29 request to develop a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, with consideration of past Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference.

## 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," "Doctor Bob's Nightmare" and the Appendices remain as is. (Repeated every year to 2001 when the 4th edition was recommended and is still in place today. To make any other changes to the Big Book, this 1995 advisory action would have to be undone. \*)

**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. (Remains in place today and would have to be undone if any changes to the 12 & 12 be initiated. \*)

**2003** It was recommended that: 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.

**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 books)

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. \*The conference from year to year has shown that it is reluctant to change anything that Bill wrote and even though the language may be out of date, the willingness to change anything hasn't been there and its remained this way through several conferences