

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

We propose the Twelve Steps from the book **Alcoholics Anonymous** in the First, Second, Third, and Fourth editions remain as originally written in the First, Second, Third, and Fourth editions; and that the proposed side by side comparison in the *current draft of the Plain and Simple* translation of the Twelve Steps be removed; and that no other translation of the Twelve Steps be written for the proposed Plain and Simple Book.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

We are voicing our concern with how the Twelve Steps of A.A. are in the current draft of the Plain & Simple Language Book.

In the 2023 73rd Conference Committee on Literature background information, Item H, Doc.1, "Progress report regarding the translation of the book **Alcoholics Anonymous** (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language"; it stated:

1. "This is no ordinary translation. The enormity of the task and the importance of getting it right is not lost on the subcommittee."
2. "Article 3 of the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board make clear that the Steps themselves should not be modified, altered, or extended. The subcommittee expects the final treatment of Chapter 5 to be consistent with that guidance."

In the 2023 73rd Conference Committee on Literature background information, Item H, Doc.2, from the TABB sub-committee report October 2022 it states under the heading, "Other outstanding items": Article 3 of the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board makes clear that the Steps themselves should not be modified, altered, or extended. The subcommittee expects the final treatment of Charter 5 to be consistent with that guidance."

When our Area 35 Delegate, who served on the Literature Committee, gave his report back from the 73rd GSC he said he read the draft of **Chapter 5, How It Works** during the allotted reading time at the Conference. He also said that the Twelve Steps were first written by themselves then right after was a side-by-side comparison of the original Steps and a plain and simple modification of the Twelve Steps.

We believe that a side-by-side comparison violates the **Alcoholics Anonymous** Conference Charter. We are requesting the 74th General Service Conference and the TABB Subcommittee to honor the **Alcoholics Anonymous** Conference Charter. We only want the Twelve Steps as they are originally written in the book **Alcoholics Anonymous, First, Second, Third, and Fourth Editions**; and not modified, altered or extended in the Plan and Simple Book. Please remove the translated (modified, altered, and extended) Twelve steps from the draft of the Plain and Simple Book.

This is the wording from the **Alcoholics Anonymous** Conference Charter Article 3:

But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of A.A. or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than the written consent of three-quarters of the A.A. groups, as described in the Resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention. Page 119, THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL 2021-2023 Edition

In Appendix L Resolution Authorizing The General Service Conference it states:

AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD: That neither the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous nor the warranties of Article XII of the Conference Charter shall ever be changed or amended by the General Service Conference except by first asking the consent of the registered A.A. groups of the world. [This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.]³ These groups shall be suitably notified of any proposal for change and shall be allowed no less than six months for consideration thereof. And before any such Conference action can be taken, there must first be received in writing within the time allotted the consent of at least three-quarters of all those registered groups who respond to such proposal.⁴

³ Resolution: It was resolved by the 1976 General Service Conference that those instruments requiring consent of three-quarters of the responding groups for change or amendment would include the Twelve Steps of A.A., should any such change or amendment ever be proposed.

⁴ Bill uses the term “registered.” A.A.W.S. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practices of any A.A. group. Groups are listed solely for purposes of accurate communications. **Page 123, THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL 2021-2023 Edition**

This problem:

It states in **Appendix O : Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Inc.:**
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., now has but one purpose, that of serving the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is in effect an agency created and now designated by the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous to maintain services for those who should be seeking, through Alcoholics Anonymous, the means for arresting the disease of alcoholism through the application to their own lives, in whole or in part, of the Twelve Steps which constitute the recovery program upon which the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is founded. These Twelve Steps are as follows:

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Page 129, THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL 2021-2023 Edition

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (hereinafter referred to as either the “General Service Board” or the “Board”) claims no proprietary right in the recovery program, for these Twelve Steps, as all spiritual truths, may now be regarded as available to all mankind. However, because these Twelve Steps have proven to constitute an effective spiritual basis for life which, if followed, arrests the disease of alcoholism, the General Service Board asserts the negative right of

preventing, so far as it may be within its power so to do, any modification, alteration, or extension of these Twelve Steps, except at the instance of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in keeping with the Charter of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous as the same may from time to time be amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Charter"). **Page 130, THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL 2021-2023 Edition**

Any modification, alteration, or extension of these Twelve Step threatens our sobriety, our Unity, and our ability to ensure that the service entities remain responsive and responsible. This possible alteration will not only be a violation the Charter of Alcoholics Anonymous, and the Bylaws of A.A., but also Tradition One and Tradition Two of A.A. The Fellowship will no longer be able to harmoniously agree on the same course of action to work the Twelve Steps of recovery from alcoholism.

If the Twelve Steps are translated into plain and simple language, these translations will lose the effective Spiritual Basis for Life. Also, they will not have any effect on arresting the disease of Alcoholism and that means Death for the ones trying to sober up.

(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, Minnesota, Area 35, Northern MN unanimously approved this proposal on June 19, 2023. The Group Conscience of District 9 Area 35 Northern MN unanimously approved this proposal on June 25, 2023.

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

2023 73rd Conference Committee on Literature background information Item H, Doc.1, and Item H, Doc.2.

THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL:

APPENDIX K: CURRENT CONFERENCE CHARTER ORIGINAL (United States and Canada)

APPENDIX L: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

APPENDIX O: BYLAWS OF THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, INC.

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

It would protect Bill Wilson's writings of the Twelve Steps as it does in the **Alcoholics Anonymous Current Conference Charter in Article 3, Conference Relations to A.A.:** But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of A.A. or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than the written consent of three-quarters of the A.A. groups, as described in the Resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention.

In **Appendix O: Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.** which states: Because these Twelve Steps have proven to constitute an effective spiritual basis for life which, if followed, arrests the disease of alcoholism.

(6) Provide a primary contract for the submission.

Hibbing Downtown Group
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(7) Final Comments:

If the words are altered, modified, or extended in the Twelve Steps it violates the Alcoholics Anonymous Charter and it will no longer be the Spiritual Documents Bill Wilson Wrote, "with the guidance of his Higher Power as he wrote them". It therefore would not be the Spiritual Documents that could give the Healing Grace the rest of us get and stay sober with in **Alcoholics Anonymous**.

We hope this proposal makes its way to the 74th Conference and can be voted on.