

SUMMER ASSEMBLY MINUTES AUGUST 07, 2021

PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS:

- That the trustees' Literature committee consider deleting or changing the following wording in the book *Living Sober*: "Better to be chubby or pleasingly plump than drunk, right? Did you ever hear of anyone being arrested for 'fat driving'?", which is located in Chapter 9 titled 'Eating or Drinking Something- Usually, Sweet' on page 23 of the 2019 printing.
– Presented by District 90

PRESENTATION: I don't have the background that the GSR who presented the motion had, but it was presented to the District 90 and the groups had opportunity to discuss it. The vote passed unanimously. It was agreed that the wording is offensive to people with eating disorders and felt that it is a violation of Tradition 10.

QUESTIONS: **Q.** Do you have a substitute for preferred language? **A.** We request to have it deleted or revised, so if it's rephrased that would be up to the Literature committee. **Q.** I don't understand how this violates Tradition 10. Can you get specific in your reasoning for this? **A.** It trivializes an issue that is very serious for people who suffer from an eating disorder. **Q.** Would you consider amending it to express that it is also a violation of Tradition 1 in respect to our common welfare? **A.** Mention of any Tradition is not in the wording of the motion, so there is nothing to amend there. **Q.** In reading the whole chapter, especially in the paragraph above this sentence, there is much more language that is disturbing around this subject. Why did you focus just on this sentence? **A.** These motions need to be specific and concisely worded. For the sake of discussion, this particular sentence was most problematic to the maker of the motion. **Q.** In what way does it violate Tradition 10? **A.** Food addiction is a very real thing, and it appears from this writing that AA has an opinion about how to approach an outside issue. **Q.** Tradition 10 is about how AA faces the public to make a statement about an outside issue, I don't see the connection here. Can you explain? **A.** It is a book published by AA and it appears to take a stance on how we would treat or regard other addictions. **Q.** How many people are complaining about this? **A.** The maker of the motion is from District 90, and it was brought to the District meeting. The GSRs then brought it to their groups which had opportunity to discuss it. When we voted there were sixteen members at the District meeting, and it passed unanimously. **Q.** Why are you wishing to revise only this paragraph when the whole chapter is offensive? **A.** The maker of the motion felt this sentence was most offensive. AA change is slow, and we wanted to be mindful that we are not asking for a whole new book. **Q.** I am just curious who wrote this chapter? Was it an AA member-at-large? **A.** I don't know who the author is.

Motion to become New Business at the Fall Assembly on November 6.

OLD BUSINESS:

- That AAWS publish a one-page summary of the six Warranties. – Presented by District 08

Discussion: [Group consciences]- Our group is not in favor, because the Warranties are already written in the Concepts. // Our group feels it is a waste of time. // Our group did not really come to a conclusive vote, but the conversation revealed that many were surprised they had never seen them before. It could be useful to put at the beginning of the Big Book. **[Personal opinions]-** The Warranties are the reason I joined General Service; I consider them to be the 'other promises.' A bookmark would be so wonderful and would present them in a way that is widely available. // I think publishing them would be a waste of time and money but could be more effective on the website; quick and easy to find. // The Warranties predate the Traditions because they appear in the original Charter. They are so foundational and explain the principles that later became the Traditions. // It would be great to have something in hand to reference them. Let's take this opportunity to be funny and entertaining with it. // This does not seem needed to spend the money since they can be found in the Service Manual. // I have not read the Warranties before and now I will. I have grown from this discussion. // When someone walks into a room and sees them on the wall or on a printout on the table it could pique their interest to learn more about the Concepts. // I had never read Concept XII until this discussion began and I was amazed. It really shows that we are not a cult and how AA really operates. // Hearing how many people don't know about them, that enough should warrant the publishing of them. It is golden information. // It's not just a question of money, it's a question of how we get information to other people. We need to go beyond our own regular meeting and have these discussions. // I have been active in General Service a long time and I guess I haven't been paying attention. We don't find things we don't know about on the internet; we find these things accidentally. We should put it in the front of the book; put it where everyone can see it as soon as they see AA. // I could not get a group conscience because they don't know about them. I learned about them when I got into service. A page summary can inform people before they get into service. // It is great to talk about the Warranties. I learned they existed after being in service for a long time. // I am kind of conflicted about it. My introduction to General Service has been all on Zoom so far, and I haven't had much opportunity to get group consciences or seek other opinions. I don't even have a Service Manual, so where would I find this information? Maybe the last page of the Big Book is good, because that

is the book I have access to. Is it too much too fast? // The Twelve Concepts Illustrated is a condensed pamphlet of this information and the Warranties are listed in there. // I'm not in favor or against it, but part of my development and growth is the process of taking the responsibility to read and learn as much as possible. // The Concepts are in the Big Book, and the six Warranties are Concept XII. The Service Manual is available on aa.org and it says specifically in the GSR duties that they "... learn everything they can about the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts..." We should wait until the new revised Service Manual comes out. If the intent is to make people aware of the Warranties, there are many other ways. // We should get them out wherever we can. Where we might see them first is in General Service and maybe by the time taken with a service sponsor. But they can be applied to our recovery, in groups' and intergroups' business meetings. Sometimes we are a little stingy with what we keep in General Service. Why not make a bookmark or put them in the front of the Big Book? // I'd like to point out that there are illustrated pamphlets for the Concepts and Traditions. Tradition 10 in the Twelve Traditions Illustrated helped me so much. I am queer and AA literature hurts us every day. // I love the Twelve Concepts Illustrated. For me personally, pain preceded every service commitment I have taken. I gained a Service Manual, then a service sponsor, and began to share at group level. // I don't feel a strong need for this. I am concerned about getting too saturated with information. I went to aa.org and they are there so I don't see a need for an additional publication. // I don't understand a need for this. The illustrated pamphlet is fine, the Big Book has it. The Warranties can get talked about. // This discussion is useful. However, the onus to carry information to the fellowship is on us. The first Forward in the beginning of the Big Book starts with, "We are more than one hundred men and women who have recovered..." I wouldn't agree with putting anything else before this important sentence about alcoholism. // My favorite pamphlet is the Twelve Concepts Illustrated. It's all laid out there. I do like this discussion though. It's a good exercise. // The illustrated pamphlet is a great for groups to grab it and have it present. This is our guide. It's already simplified. // I was a GSR at an assembly in WA twenty-five years ago and it resulted in the illustrated pamphlet we see today. It's true the Warranties are a well-kept secret and aside from now and our discussion at the last assembly I just don't hear about them much, so I am loving this discussion. Taking this back to our home groups is critically important. // I Googled the six Warranties just now and I am not familiar with them. It's amazing because it is very apropos to a current situation in my home group, and I believe highlighting them would make them more accessible, like maybe the way we do the yellow safety card. // A long time ago I was a GSR in San Francisco and we had a District treasurer run off with \$5,000. I called GSO to find out what could be done about it or how to deal with him, and I had my first lesson with the six Warranties, as it was explained to me that there can never be any personally punitive action taken against a member. // It is good information to share widely, but we need to do it by communication. We don't want to print something that will become useless. // I am fearful that publishing this will create a precedent of not putting ourselves in a position to be of service. If they have it too easily, I don't have to work as hard to share information and carry the message. // It is my responsibility to take it to my home group and talk about it or invite them to a Concept study. // I found that CNCA has an article published in the *Comments* in 2016 (DCM Sharing Session, August 2016).

The Assembly was asked if they were ready to vote, and members were ready to vote. Substantial unanimity (2/3) was required for the motion to pass.

Vote: Yes (76) / No (53) / Abstain (12)

Motion did not acquire 2/3 of the vote. Minority opinion and motion to reconsider occurred last assembly.
<<<Motion Failed>>>

The meeting was closed at 12:00pm with the Responsibility Declaration.