

## 2021 Fall Assembly Business Minutes

### Presentation of New Business

- That CNCA distribute the Area newsletters (*Comments / Comentarios*) electronically unless requested by mail. - *Presented by District 06 at the Area Committee Meeting 7/24/21*

*Presentation:* This was presented at District 06, and we discussed it for two months, then it passed unanimously. The purpose of this motion is to make electronic delivery the default method of distributing the newsletter for when we are allowed to mail them again. Right now, we are doing so exclusively because mailing got suspended due to the pandemic, and it is not appropriate to assemble them in-person (Lick & Stick parties). But when we can safely mail them again, we would resume the way of U.S. mail being the default method of delivery, and we'd like to flip that. The cost of printing and mailing roughly 1,300 pieces is about \$10,000 per month. It is not exclusionary, just a preference. U.S. mail is certainly still an option for those that cannot or prefer not to receive them via email.

*Questions:* **Q.** What is your intended method to allow for the request for hard copy or not? **A.** That is the function of the Registrar. Maybe at some point we could have a way to opt-out on the website. **Q.** I am unclear on which request is to be made. **A.** The default method of delivery would be electronic, so if you wanted to receive it by mail you would request it. **Q.** Which way would they receive their request? **A.** How the Registrars do it now; upon registration when we begin a new service position. The rosters that the District Registrars pass around at their meetings already have a box that people check if they wish to receive the newsletter. We would also take a thorough canvas of the people that already receive them prior to the new panel. **Q.** Is the digital option available in both languages? **A.** Yes, translation of our newsletters would remain the same as it is now.

Motion to become New Business at the Pre-Conference Assembly held on April 2-3, 2022.

### Presentation of New Business

- A request to the trustees' Literature committee that the 2021 advisory action related to the phrase "lustful enough to rape " on page 66 in the chapter 'Step Six' of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be rescinded and the language be returned to the original. - *Presented by District 20 at the Area Committee Meeting 10/23/21*

*Presentation:* District 20 is presenting this motion because many share the same idea that lust has made people rape or be raped. The text as it was written makes the concept real to the reader of the possible result of letting our character defects take over. To reflect on the reality of this is a reminder to be careful of the extremes our character defects can get to. None of the groups in District 20 voted for the text on page 66 to be changed, and we are presenting this motion to have it changed back.

*Questions:* **Q.** Is your intent to change this so soon after the fellowship voted to have it this way because of your romanticism of the original text, regardless of whether it would be good or bad for AA as a whole? **A.** Yes, none of the groups in District 20 were in agreement with changing it. A lot of us identify more with the original text. It reminds us to put aside our character defects and raises consciousness about the importance of keeping them in check. **Q.** Do the makers of the motion understand the intent behind the original change? **A.** Yes, we understand it. We discussed this for four months and we simply identify more with the original text.

***Motion to become New Business at the Pre-Conference Assembly held on April 2-3, 2022.***

## **Old Business**

- That the trustees' Literature committee develop a graphic novel, or a series of graphic novels, that depict the first 164 pages of the Big Book. - *Presented by District 90 at the Area Committee Meeting 2/27/21*

*Discussion: [Group consciences]-* This was our district conscience. Overall, we were in favor, it's a great way to reach a broader audience. It will be more accessible to people who are younger, with lower literacy levels, or who are offput by the language in the big book. Some had concerns about how the graphics will appear, to be mindful of cultural depictions so to not further create additional barriers. // This is an assessible tool that can help guide beginners and reach a broader audience. // Our group was in favor. The majority felt like it is a fun and new approach and is inclusive. // The majority of the group was in favor. Some had people they knew that were not able to understand the Big Book and it will be a valuable resource. The minority opinion did not want any change. // Our group was unanimous. We felt anything that will help is a good idea. There are any people who don't read at a higher level. // Our group was unanimous and felt it can be done without altering the text. It will help with readability and some that find the language to be a barrier. // Our group was in favor. Last summer there was the video presentation from GSO that explained about reading comprehension and literacy levels. It was impactful and changed a lot of minds. It was very noteworthy to hear people's opinions before and after that video. // Our group was unanimously in favor. // Our group was divided. The people who were against it had concerns about how well it carries the message. Also, they were confused because the Big Book is not a novel. // Our group was unanimous. We felt it speaks to Tradition Five and if this is a way to bridge a language gap then let's do it. We see the success with the illustrated Twelve Traditions and Concepts pamphlets. // The group was divided at first then we came around to agreeing that it is an attractive way of receiving the message and can reach people with lower reading levels. // We felt it is a very good idea. We had questions about the cartoons or if it would be blurred faces. // We felt it was a good idea. People might learn more than from how the Big Book is now. // Our group was unanimous. We felt it will reach more people who have difficulty reading or understanding the ideas in the Big Book. // Our group was mostly in favor. Some had concerns about the cost and how different cultures will be portrayed. // Our group felt like this would be considered a translation into a new language and did not feel it would change the original Big Book, so we thought it was a good idea. // Our group was unanimously in favor. We were very grateful for the literacy survey that was presented by GSO. **[Personal opinions]-** I am in favor, but I get upset at the idea that people who understand illustrations better than comprehending sentences are put in the same category as people who can't read or have a lower comprehension level. // I think it is an extraordinary idea. This will help people. // I've talked to educators who suggest that most people who understand just plain English language are at a 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading level. // It's a great idea. It's just another mode to understand the language. // This will help many people who are highly intelligent and can comprehend complex ideas but are dyslexic. // I can read very well, but I also I'm a photographer and I'm used to making interpretations from a picture or something visual. // I'm kind of questioning the timing on this. Shouldn't we see how the plain language version comes out first? I do love the idea though. // This is going to get people excited and want to share their voice about this. People are hungry for material, and we love to share with others. I think it's a great tool for people with dyslexia or who are nervous to read in front of other people.

***Motion to remain Old Business at the Pre-Conference Assembly held on April 2-3, 2022.***

## **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 at the Area Committee Meeting 7/24/21

*Discussion: [Group consciences]-* We were unanimously in favor. We spoke about Tradition 10, and importance that we have no authority and knowledge over others. // This was controversial for us we had quite a dialogue about it and were kind of split, mostly not in favor and felt that this sentence is not intended to be hurtful. // We had a good discussion about it and voted seven to three not in favor. But the minority opinion that agreed to the change felt the wording should be replaced. // We were mostly in favor and felt that people who suffer from eating disorders or have low self-esteem about their weight may have trouble with this part of the book and that we could be more sensitive in our literature. // Our home group at first had some chuckles about it but then did agree to change it. It could be brought up to date, it was written a long time ago. // Our group was divided on this. About half don't want to change it and the other half feel that the phrase can have a negative impact on folks with eating disorders. // we feel it should be left as it is and then it's not so serious. There was a minority opinion that liked the idea to change it. // The minority opinion found humor in it. But the majority agreed that it is insensitive, and humor is not okay at somebody else's expense and that it was fat shaming. // Many people have an unconscious bias about food addiction. It is an issue. // Our group was strongly in favor. Eating disorders could be life or death for some people and many suffer from self-deprecation or a diminished sense of self. The minority opinion said that people can take what they like and leave the rest. // Our group was unanimous to change it if it offends. **[Personal opinions]-** I think it is possible to retain a humorous tone to this chapter but still be respectful, inclusive, and not create a further barrier. // Sometimes I hear people be confused about who wrote it. It wasn't Bill W. He died in 1971 and the first edition of *Living Sober* came out in 1975, written by a member at that time, Barry L., who was hired by GSO; it's not sacred text. // Part of the reason there was such a need to produce the Big Book was to face a whole world of ignorance about alcoholism that was contemporary in its time. Each generation will have a contemporary ignorance and I see that a lot now around food addiction. Our literature exists in time with what is contemporary, so we need to look at what might be insensitive ask to learn more. // It is the first book I read, and I felt it to be inclusive. But it is good to change if we are aware of it. Change the little details. We don't want someone to read something they don't like and not come back. // I am not against it, but it seems like we are discussing so many other items of literature and that we are going about it piecemeal. I think we need a complete audit of all our dated language. It would be worth the expense for even a few lives. I think much more can be done with our literature. // I think it should be updated. Is helpful to not have derogatory language and we know that most people have a whole set of problems outside alcohol. // We have a variety of language, and the context varies. We will be changing books forever because there's always something that's offensive. I think it's an opportunity to discuss and grow. // I don't think it's offensive. Alcohol offended much more that we were willing to make so many changes. // I identify as an overeater, and I'm not offended by this paragraph. People are being too sensitive.

***Motion to become Old Business at the Pre-Conference Assembly held on April 2-3, 2022.***

The meeting was closed at 12:00pm with the Responsibility Declaration and resumed for 'What's On Your Mind?' after the inventory.