

2022 Pre Conference Assembly Business Meeting Minutes

PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS

- That the phrase “cómo nosotros los concebimos” (as we conceive it) on Step Three of the third edition of the Big Book in Spanish be corrected in future editions to; “como nosotros lo entendimos” (as we understood him), the correct translation from the English version of the Big Book. - *Presented by District 20 at the Area Committee Meeting 11/27/21*

Presentation: The members of the District 20 committee are in agreement to forward the request to the trustees' Literature committee to change the wording as it is in the current Third Edition. We believe it comes as a translation error. The word 'consebir' literally means to conceive, to become pregnant. Finding an alternative word such as 'entendimos' is a more accurate translation of 'we understand'.

Questions: **Q.** Have you checked what the verb concebir means and are sure it is incorrect, or seen an example of another way to translate it? **A.** Yes, the dictionary defines it as “to create a baby.” **Q.** Conceive also mean to understand. Did you consider this is a matter of perception and not necessarily an error? **A.** Yes, we did, and feel it can be confusing to the newcomer. **Q.** Did you consider there are several meanings to consebir? **A.** We had a long discussion at our district, and we agree that many of us don't understand that consebir and entender are synonymous. We considered what would be easiest to understand for someone approaching AA for the first time.

Motion to become New Business at the Post-Conference Assembly held at the Newark Pavilion in Newark on May 14, 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]- Our district is overwhelmingly in favor of this. We feel it would make AA more attractive and accessible, particularly to people who are younger or people with lower literacy levels. We are divided on whether it should be the 'word for word' novelization or abridged. Some have concerns about how the graphics will appear, to be mindful of cultural representation of all alcoholics from different backgrounds, particularly people of color, and warning against visual stereotypes or caricatures. Length and cost are a concern, but it could be used primarily as an online tool.

Motion to remain Old Business at the Post-Conference Assembly held at the Newark Pavilion in Newark on May 14, 2022.

- 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]- Our group feels it does not need to be changed. // Our group does not agree with any changes to the literature.

Motion to remain Old Business at the Post-Conference Assembly held at the Newark Pavilion in Newark on May 14, 2022.

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*

Discussion: [Group consciences]- Our group feels it is a good idea, but make sure people understand how to request mail copies if they want them.

Motion to become Old Business at the Post-Conference Assembly held at the Newark Pavilion in Newark on May 14, 2022.

- 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*

Discussion: [Group consciences]- Our group was surprised the changes went into effect so immediately. We think it should be immediately returned. // We feel very strongly that it should not have been changed. // We think the change it needed. Rape has nothing to do with lust; it is about power. It can't go back because the statement is untrue, and we have that knowledge now. // We think the change in wording changes the essence of the meaning. // It hasn't affected us so we are not in favor of changing it back. // We all know how difficult it is to get a group to agree on anything, and we are unanimously opposed to any changes. **[Personal opinions]-** There is confusion around this one because of a coinciding agenda topic related to changes in the 12 & 12. This motion was introduced at our area before it was known it would become an agenda topic requested by another area. I like to think of these as updates rather than changes to the literature. // I am not in favor of making changes to the book; it will lose the essence of the meaning. // We heard about the proposal last year and it was discussed and decided by the fellowship. I disagree with the rescind motion. // The wording is actually different between the English and the Spanish translations, and in the Spanish version the phrase makes a lot more sense. // I don't agree with the change. The concept was understood easier before; whether it is about lust or overpowering, it is a good reminder of the extremes our character defects can go if not kept in check. // Changing it is getting away from our primary purpose; we are putting too much focus on what looks and sounds nice. The thoughts of a few are not thinking for AA as a whole. // The message got changed by altering that sentence. Lust is still listed as an extreme of a character defect. The word rape was removed because lust does not lead to rape. // I don't think it needs to be rescinded. The sentence is not essential to the message. // The focus when being in the rooms and reading our literature is on our recovery and our willingness to go to any lengths for our recovery. That does not mean we need to be expected to put up with triggering and offensive language. // Many of us come in with much baggage and consequences of our lustful actions fueled by alcohol. I think we should leave it how it was. // I am not in favor of the change; it takes away from the message. // Rape is supposed to be harsh language and is not supposed to happen. The original wording should be kept so we are reminded. // Sometime the details at the microphone can have a traumatic effect on people. The language in the book is harmful and consequently makes the discussion pro and con to the change difficult to hear. // The original text was written to illustrate extremes, but I still don't mind the milder expression of the 7 Deadly Sins. // I was not affected by the change and find it acceptable. // Let's call things for what they are. When we get sober, we are waking up from an unconscious state. I think the words shown are harsh. And we change and are here today to show we are different. // I did my drinking in English, and my recovery in Spanish. We need to keep making changes or we are going to lose alcoholics even before they get here, or when they are brand new. // The disease of lust could create a crime and the original wording is a good reminder of the extremes our character defects can go. // Our primary purpose is to carry the message of recovery. If there is any barrier to our program and we are hearing from the people who feel and experience that barrier, why block it? // The decision to change it was made in 2021; we don't exist in a vacuum. Society has changed, we need to change with it. // Put yourself in the shoes of the people who are affected by the language which is factually not true and analyze it from that perspective. // My drinking led me to some bad places and some bad people, and I was raped often. It is not about a character defect of lust; rape is about power and violence. The change needed to occur, and I am not in favor of rescinding it. // I had to do my inventory and see that I had a lot of problems and sexual issues, then begin to work on my recovery. It is dangerous to disregard that part of me that is constantly struggling to improve and be a better person. It is dangerous to soften the terms. // I want to see it go back to the original. The idea of the 7 Deadly Sins is a move towards religion and can be perceived as religious. // The change strips it from its context. It describes the worst manifestation of our character defects gone unchecked, leading to rape. // For hundreds of years alcoholism was seen as a moral issue or weakness, and Alcoholics Anonymous showed the world it is not about morality. Bill has admitted he was wrong about numerous things. Rape is not about lust. // I am a DCM of a subdistrict, and we have a motion in the works regarding the way we use our language when discussing controversial topics with harsh language. "Our stories disclose in a general way..." // When we are working on Step 6 and approaching that chapter, we are reminded that we can be free of the most destructive defects. We have an alcoholic mind and if we don't work to remove the character defects in their extreme then we can return to the alcoholic mind that can incite a violation. The wording is a reminder to prevent that. & Deadly Sins sounds religious. // I agree with my companion that it should change back to the original. It is a reminder that I can change. // I do not agree with last year's change. I do not understand about the 7 Deadly Sins. The original content is better understood in Spanish, I think. // It is said that alcoholism is an emotional disease, and there are people in jail for committing this crime while under the influence of alcohol. // Leave it as it is. Don't change the literature, I am the one who needs to change. // I am in favor of the change, which is different than my group's opinion. It may be that it's poorly translated so it doesn't sound as offensive when read in Spanish as it does in English. // We need it to be told like it is in terms of the severity of our unchecked character defects. I like the original text better. // The way it was is correct. If Bill was alive, he would come over and slap us in the cheek for changing his book.

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