

## Proposed Agenda Item for 2023 General Service Conference

*There was an agenda item this Spring...*

### 2022 Literature Agenda Item L

Review progress report regarding requests to develop study guide workbooks for AA.

From the 2022 Background material:

The committee agreed on requesting feedback from the Fellowship on the following options:

- **Option 1** – Take no action.
- **Option 2** – Turn to the Grapevine and leverage its ample archive of articles on practicing the Steps to show variation in approach and style. Future Grapevine podcasts could serve a supplemental role and help enrich this effort.
- **Option 3** – Create a General Service Conference approved study guide workbook to aid in studying the Twelve Steps. Possibly with inclusion of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.

*Here is what happened to the agenda item at Conference...*

### 72<sup>nd</sup> GSC Literature Committee Consideration

- The committee reviewed the Subcommittee Report on Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) and several requests for development of study guides from the Fellowship. The committee also reviewed the minutes of the discussions on this item by the trustees' Literature Committee. The committee noted that additional information would be needed in order to provide direction on these requests. The committee requested that the trustees' Literature Committee provide further information regarding the purpose of the proposals and examples of what Big Book or *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* study guides would look like.

*Here's what AA members in New Hampshire said about the idea of a workbook...*

### 2022 Delegate's Survey

The voice of Area 43 expressed substantial unanimity (73.4%) that it would be more appropriate for AA to create Conference-approved materials, rather than letting outside entities interpret our message (**YES = 256**)

The voice of Area 43 expressed substantial unanimity (73.7%) in favor of creating a Conference-approved workbook/study guide (**YES = 258**)

**In other words...we have the answer the Literature Committee is asking for 😊**

*Here's the next steps...*

### Discuss the proposed agenda item

(As we get feedback from other Delegates and our Regional Trustee, there may be small tweaks to language, but they will be minor)

Questions? Email [delegate@nhaa.net](mailto:delegate@nhaa.net)

Reach an informed Group Conscience

Attend the August 27<sup>th</sup> Area Assembly and VOTE!

**Proposed Agenda Item**  
**Area 43 will vote on this proposal at the August 27<sup>th</sup> Area Assembly**

**Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.**

Develop a workbook based on the Twelve Steps, to include the following elements: the suggestion to work with a sponsor if one is available; passages from the Big Book along with worksheets/exercises to aid in comprehension; illustrations; shared experience from AA members on key passages and ideas related to the Steps; worksheets to aid in completing a 4<sup>th</sup> Step inventory.

**What problem does this proposed item address?**

There are many workbooks and study guides available that are based on AA's 12 Steps – but none are published by Alcoholics Anonymous. Workbooks and study guides from outside entities undermine efforts of Alcoholics Anonymous to maintain the integrity of our message and may contain misinformation about Alcoholics Anonymous and the Twelve Steps.

Bill W recommended newcomers work with a sponsor, who will “take them through the Steps.” Discussion in our Area revealed that many sponsors use materials published by outside entities when working with newcomers, including a variety of workbooks and study guides. If AA sponsors are using workbooks, AA should provide them.

Recent reports from GSO estimate that 38,000 AA members in the US and Canada are incarcerated. Sponsorship may not be available for these AA members or may only be available on a limited basis. The Corrections desk at GSO receives, on average, one request every week from an inmate asking for a workbook. Creating a workbook addresses this need.

**What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?**

Creating a workbook will ensure Alcoholics Anonymous is, and remains, the custodian of our program. Our members will no longer need to rely upon materials published by outside entities, materials over which we have no control.

Safeguarding the integrity of our program is vital for generations of alcoholics to come and has been the subject of multiple advisory actions in past years.

A workbook is complimentary to the goal of the Subcommittee on Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) without requiring any changes to the language in the first 164 pages of Big Book.

Revenue from sales of workbooks would flow to AA.