

**VIII.**

**REPORT  
AND  
CHARTER**

## CONFIDENTIAL: 72nd General Service Conference Background

- ◆ Review History of Conference Committee – Craig W., secretary.
- ◆ Report of A.A.W.S. Publishing department – Ames S., executive editor.
- A. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.
- B. Review *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2021-2023 Edition.
- C. Review progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing on a new section to be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled “Amendments.”
- D. Consider request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet “G.S.R.: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole.”
- E. Consider requests that the chapter titled “The Doctor's Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition.

## 2022 Conference Committee on Literature

**ITEM E: PAI #52 and #55** Consider requests that the chapter titled “The Doctor's Opinion” in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition.

**Note: As a result of the EDW plan, this item is on the agenda of the Conference Report and Charter Committee**

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### Background Notes:

*Excerpts from the TCL October 2021 meeting:*

The committee considered the request that upon the creation of a Fifth Edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the chapter titled: “The Doctor's Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition, published in 1939. The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2022 General Service Conference a request that upon the creation of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* the chapter titled: “The Doctor's Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition, published in 1939.

The committee considered the request to restore the original page numbering of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, by making "The Doctor's Opinion" page one, not "Bill's Story". The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to restore the original page numbering of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* by making "The Doctor's Opinion" page one, not "Bill's Story."

The committee forwarded these proposed agenda items, their background, and their Scoring Tools to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for review by its Subcommittee on Equitable Distribution of Workload.

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### Background:

1. [PAI #52-Retrn\\_Doctor's Opinion\\_Pg1\\_BB](#)
2. [PAI #55-Restore\\_Pg\\_Nmb\\_Dr Opinion](#)

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**(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.**

I move that upon the creation of a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the chapter titled: **“The Doctor's Opinion”** be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition, published in 1939.

**(2) What problem does this proposed item address?**

“The Doctor’s Opinion” was moved from page one to the Roman Numerals when the Second edition was published. Data suggests that the average reader does not read the Preface and Forwards. Instead, they start on page one. If the suffering alcoholic, without a sponsor or guidance, starts on page one they will miss the only medical explanation of the disease presented in the Text, Alcoholics Anonymous. How can we take the chance of losing even one alcoholic to the disease because at some time in the past “The Doctor’s Opinion” was moved away from page one? How many have already left AA without answers to vital medical (Physical, Mental, Spiritual) questions contained within this life-sustaining chapter?

**(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.*

Former District 10 DCM Dave T. brought forth a motion to his Salem Noontime homegroup on 1/23/2021 asking to return The Doctor’s Opinion to page one which was approved with substantial unanimity. The motion was then brought forth to the District 10 Committee Meeting. GSR’s were asked to bring the motion back to their home groups for discussion and a vote. On 4/15/2021, all participating groups voted with substantial unanimity in favor of the motion. It was then decided to bring the motion to the Area 43 Assembly for endorsement with a final vote taken on 8/21/2021. Of those in attendance 60% voted in favor of the motion; 67% was needed for Assembly substantial unanimity approval.

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

**Click these live supporting document links:**

“Returning The Doctor’s Opinion” web page.

- <https://seacoastaa.org/return-tdo>

A slides document presented to the NH Area Assembly on 8/21/2021.

- <https://www.seacoastaa.org/docs/Archives/TDO-PPT.pdf>

Original Motion by David T., to the Salem Noontime Group on 1/23/2021.

- <https://www.seacoastaa.org/docs/Archives/TDO-Proposal.pdf>

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

Back in 1939, when this chapter first appeared, the Foundation was mailing the Big Book out and newcomers were reading it without any guidance. The AA Fellowship saw exponential growth. This content packaging worked.

The suffering alcoholic, without a sponsor or guidance, will begin reading The Doctor’s Opinion on page one and absorb the only medical evidence presented in the book, Alcoholics Anonymous. Furthermore, readers will be validated with a sense of surety, freedom and well-being in learning that alcoholism is a disease and not a moral failing.

**(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.**

**Contact:** David T.

**Email:**

**On the Web:** <https://seacoastaa.org/return-tdo>

**(7) Final comments:**

- Research indicates that people begin reading a book on page one.
- By returning The Doctor’s Opinion to page one we eliminate the possibility of losing (even one) alcoholic because they did not understand the medical nature of our disease.
- Review graphic below and notice The Doctor’s Opinion appears on “PAGE 1.”

**The Doctor's Opinion in the First Edition: Contents and Page One.**

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THE DOCTOR'S OPINION

*W*E of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the reader will be interested in the medical estimate of the plan of recovery described in this book. Convincing testimony must surely come from medical men who have had experience with the sufferings of our members and have witnessed our return to health. A well known doctor, chief physician at a nationally prominent hospital specializing in alcoholic and drug addiction, gave Alcoholics Anonymous this letter:

To Whom It May Concern:

I have specialized in the treatment of alcoholism for many years.

About four years ago I attended a patient who, though he had been a competent business man of good earning capacity, was an alcoholic of a type I had come to regard as hopeless.

In the course of his third treatment he acquired certain ideas concerning a possible means of recovery. As part of his rehabilitation he commenced to present his conceptions to other alcoholics, impressing upon them that they must do likewise with still others. This has become the basis of a rapidly growing fellowship of these men and their families. This man and over one hundred others appear to have recovered.

I personally know thirty of these cases who were of the type with whom other methods had failed completely.

i

<p><b>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</b></p>	<p><b>Trustees' Literature Committee PAI#55 Submission Form</b></p>
<p>Proposal - Restore the original page numbering of the book Alcoholics Anonymous by making the Doctors Opinion page one, not Bills Story.</p>	
<p><b>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</b></p>	
<p>AA has succeeded in getting millions of copies of the Big Book in print. This is a remarkable feat in the history of publishing. However, many oldtimers like myself, have noted that newcomers are likely to skip the Doctors Opinion when they first come in contact with the book. I believe this is due to the fact that the Doctors Opinion has been accorded roman numeral page numbering.</p> <p>The Doctors Opinion is a document of "paramount" importance. Among its several points, the idea that the alcoholic must first and foremost become 100% de-toxed before much progress can be attained is pointed out several times. This, as all recovered alcoholics know, is because until the physical craving is eliminated, any spiritual effort will be without result. I and others observe that when studying the Doctors Opinion with a sponsee, they tend to be nearly entirely closed minded to the Doctor's admonition "These allergic types can never safely use alcohol in any form at all." This is likely due to their being quite insane when it comes to alcohol. A good sponsor, however, can generally win the sponsee over to the Doctors opinion on this by using comparisons to fatal peanut, allergies, shellfish allergies, etc., showing that people with such allergies NEVER get those substances on them or in them.</p> <p>But what about the new comer who has no sponsor, who, being only in possession of the book, skips the Doctors Opinion entirely? He has no idea that his Listerine, his hand sanitizer, his hair gel, his cologne, his aftershave, etc singly or collectively ignite the phenomenon of craving in hsi bathroom every morning? Persecuted throughout the day by this physical craving, he fails to get even a week, let alone longer, in dry time and concludes "I can't do this", not understanding that he can , if only he could first get de-toxed. 100%</p>	
<p><b>(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.).</b></p>	
<p><i>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.</i></p>	
<p>I am submitting this request as an individual, continuously sober since 14 July 1995, who has sponsored hundreds of alcoholics, and with the approval of my sponsor, who has been continuously sober since 28 July 1982 and who has sponsored thousands of alcoholics.</p>	
<p><b>(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:</b></p>	

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

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

I am not asking for anything new, but rather a restoration to the original page numbering. Surely there will be lots of resistance this idea. People become comfortable having memorized their favorite page numbers. But which is more important? Comfort, or a correction of a mistake made long ago which cannot fail to help more newcomers have a better chance at sobriety?

**(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.**

Eric B

**(7) Final comments:**

District has voted in favor of this proposal

The Group has voted in favor

A group, dist., has voted in favor PPG

W has voted in favor

Group has voted in favor

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