

April 28 from 7:45-8:45am I got to review the front matter and chapters 1-5 of the plain language translation/adaption of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. An hour was nowhere near enough time to thoroughly read everything in front of me. I was disappointed to say the least, but it was not debatable, so I sat and read.

We had a sharing session on Friday? which allowed anyone who wanted to share the opportunity, and the session was recorded for the writer to listen to after we were done. As soon as the session opened the 10-15 people ran to each of the three the microphones. As I waited for the lines to thin a bit before joining, I listened and jotted down their comments.

What I would like to do now is let you hear the feedback from the other members of the conference. I did not go to the mike as planned since it was suggested that if you already heard what you wanted to say please refrain from going to the microphone. I think they said all I wanted to say and more. Please listen carefully as the comments are in the order that they went to the microphone:

Cara- I came in at 16 knew how to read and comprehend but didn't connect with the Big Book. A sponsor helped me. Reading through this plain language bought me back to when I was 16 and I wish this book was around then for me to read.

Area 38- Bobb asked for a plain language right after the big book was written. Intent was there.

Area 89- Liked the tone- chapter to wives outdated?

Area 9-Facinating- easy read- direct steps 9side by side0

Area 93 greatest accessibility tool- likes style- I can almost hear people quoting passages- I will keep both (subtle 0context)

Area 92 – was suspicious- started to feel language of the heart- will go back and set people straight.

Area -6 Felt insulted by big book finally now understood what the chapter means “we agnostics” and I am highly educated.

Area 60 didn't love it – definitions- softening of language- “go to the bitter end deep morass” to be doomed to die an alcoholic death or find a way to live a spiritual life is not an easy choice to make

I cried for an hour and a half during the sharing session – voice of sponsor- didn't need interpreter- easy and accessible.

27- liked headers- liked columns- didn't like definitions, i.e., agnostic, atheist

82- area requested floor action- I had internal bias since I have been part of a big book study since 1975 – loved the book

56-evolved as time went on- struck by beauty, best thing AA has done for alcoholics in a long time

73- not a replacement- excited- Dr. Opinion didn't convey the importance bias- emotions connected- maybe someone will experience emotions after reading

85- dinosaurs ion my area- pleasantly surprised- made sense- flowing & easy. Must see finish line- provide tools- not for me but alcoholic who cannot see light at end of tunnel.

GSO staff- CPC perspective- blown away-removing barriers- professionals have obstacles to our program- make it a CPC tool

59-love the language of the original big book after years of studying Dr. Opinion- what it says to newcomer- tool to access the BB didn't realize

GV editor- I was wondering how we were going to pull this off- water behind my eyes the whole time I was reading

GSO staff – read other plain language books published by other companies- forward & preface “if you are ready to start your journey turn the page”

Area 3-scism- in area two camps- focus more on consequences

GSO staff- 40 years in got sober at 15- tone inviting in a gentle way with options to ask questions

Learned how to read in AA- some of the instructions are missing- course of action- backbone of program-people memorize how it works so others don't know they can't read

23 years of working with people who have brain injuries- I have trouble reading myself

?? thank you-my area is scared- just the beginning and worried about changing more

57- Area against PL – I read the book- not the same magic- don't translate steps

Pablo Central LA- Concerned whole book would be changed- very easy to understand.

44-made energy of love- was there a need? Easier softer way

10- Thought I would hate it. Dr. Opinion side by side – effort made for unity

19- not enough time- enjoyed the reading - my area has many conspiracies theorists

35- promised not to change, modify, or extend steps- bury the book in a deep dark hole

Area against any changes, don't like definitions on side- jaywalker needs fixing

Area ? like a song following the same melody the BB- God is in the Book

Area 36- Area has fear - grateful to have read- wish I had more time- great tool – goal was to make our program accessible

Kara- Loved Dr. Opinion side by side- jaywalker is a female- made me giddy – loved it

Area 7- this book 3rd most important thing done for alcoholics– could not have conceived how well this would be put together

Sally- unbelievable high quality- looked forward to loving and not disappointed – Still fear at assemblies & in area- they want a different look and name for book

Trustee- in favor when I went to room- felt warm in my heart- was able to feel- want a Spanish version

Area 76- steps translated not explained

Area 28 – voices from my area- cease and desist – provisions for updates in the future- old white guy with expensive education (wasted) found this book

Area 47- prison inmates insulted and opposed to PL

Area 29 – had low expectations- pleasantly surprised liked definitions- broken into smaller paragraphs- 2% of people in custody come to AA should it be a higher number- this is the best part of the conference

Area 25- could not comprehend when I first go sober- head injury-ADD- Awesome tool

GSO staff- Incredible work- historical- plain language in Spanish- glad you hired professional- scary to have different people in the room- book help's keep the door open

GSO staff- Will always remember the day I opened the book- read Jaywalker

Area 31- Book is the BOMB – no disappointments, promotion not attraction, what is the difference between plain & simple

Area 16- Glad we have appreciation for our book – a design for living. Glad God was not missing.

GSO Staff- Interested in the spiritual experience. Surprised with fears about minority opinion- difficult but I respect views

Area 63- As sponsor job is to help people find their story- this toll will help me help them

Area 68- Lukewarm area on PL- concerns are not necessarily fear- don't want message watered down. Assuming it goes forward- will it be conference approved (Committee System)

Area 79 – I don't use BB to sponsor- I use the 12X12. This PL will help me.

Ormond- Read book and it touched me. Will remember for a long time. Will it be published in 3 languages- No must get it right 1st time and not wrong 3 times.

Area 67- Educated but if I had to read BB by myself when I got here I would not be sober- fastest hour I ever spent.