

Agenda Item A:

Consider proposed revisions to the book,
Alcoholics Anonymous

Agenda Item A:

Doc 1: Request to add an appendix to the book
Alcoholics Anonymous, reflecting recognition received
from the Library of Congress

Request from Area 43 (New Hampshire)



Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution. The Library seeks to spark imagination and creativity and to further human understanding and wisdom by providing access to knowledge through its magnificent collections, programs and exhibitions. Many of the Library's rich resources can be accessed through its website at www.loc.gov.

Agenda Item A:

Library of Congress FAQ's

How does the Library acquire its holdings?

The Library receives new materials through exchange with libraries in this country and abroad, gifts, materials received from local, state and federal agencies as well as foreign governments, purchase, and copyright deposits. Thousands of items are added to the collections of the Library each working day. Selection officers review materials and decide which should be kept and added to the permanent collections. Copyright deposits make up the core of the collections, particularly those in the map, music, motion picture, and prints and photographs divisions.

<https://www.loc.gov/about/frequently-asked-questions/>

Agenda Item A:



The Library of Congress--the world's largest repository of knowledge and information--Began its multiyear "Celebration of the Book" with an exhibition, "Books That Shaped America," which opened June 25, 2012. The exhibition is part of a larger series of programs, symposia and other events that explore the important and varied ways that books influence our lives.



Curators and experts from throughout the Library of Congress contributed their choices for “Books That Shaped America”. The book “Alcoholics Anonymous” was chosen for the 2012 list of “88”.

Additionally, “America Reads” was a 2016 Exhibition at the Library of Congress which celebrated the public’s choice of 65 Books by American authors that had a profound effect on American Life. Of the 65 books in the “America Reads” exhibition, 25 were from the list published in 2012.

“America Reads”—The Public’s Top 25 Choices from the Original 2012 List

- Ayn Rand, "Atlas Shrugged"
- Harper Lee, "To Kill a Mockingbird"
- Mark Twain, "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"
- Thomas Paine, "Common Sense"
- Harriet Beecher Stowe, "Uncle Tom’s Cabin; or, Life Among the Lowly"
- The Federalist: "A Collection of Essays, Written in Favour of the New Constitution"
- Upton Sinclair, "The Jungle"
- J. D. Salinger, "The Catcher in the Rye"
- John Steinbeck, "The Grapes of Wrath"
- Alcoholics Anonymous: "The Story of How More Than One Hundred Men Have Recovered from Alcoholism"
- Ray Bradbury, "Fahrenheit 451"
- F. Scott Fitzgerald, "The Great Gatsby"
- Louisa May Alcott, "Little Women, or, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy"
- Margaret Mitchell, "Gone With the Wind"
- Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss), "The Cat in the Hat"
- Rachel Carson, "Silent Spring"
- Henry David Thoreau, "Walden; or, Life in the Woods"
- Jack Kerouac, "On the Road"
- Betty Friedan, "The Feminine Mystique"
- L. Frank Baum, "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz"
- Herman Melville, "Moby-Dick; or, the Whale"
- Dale Carnegie, "How to Win Friends and Influence People"
- Joseph Heller, "Catch-22"
- Walt Whitman, "Leaves of Grass"
- Benjamin Spock, "Baby and Child Care"

Agenda Item A Doc 1: Proposed Appendix

Appendix VIII

2012 Library of Congress Recognition

When this book was published in 1939, the authors hoped to cast it like a chip upon the world wide tide of alcoholism in the hopes it would make a difference. The authors scarcely could have hoped it would prove as influential as it did. The United States' Library of Congress, the world's largest repository of knowledge and information, published a list in June 2012 of the 88 most influential books in America. The list, entitled "Books that Shaped America," included the book Alcoholics Anonymous.

Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress is the United States oldest cultural institution. Curators and experts from throughout the Library of Congress contributed their choices for "Books that shaped America." The Librarian of Congress hoped the list would prompt people to choose to read and discuss the books on the list. The list was also intended to recognize significant works that had influenced American society.

Agenda Item A:

Doc 1: Discussion

Firstly, this appendix would help readers understand the contemporary significance of a book written in 1939 which contains language that is often thought of as dated.

Secondly, **like the Lasker Award (Appendix IV)***, This appendix will convey to readers that the program as outlined in the book does indeed work as evidenced by its recognized influence on society.

***The Lasker Awards program was created in 1945 by Albert and Mary Lasker to shine a spotlight on fundamental biological discoveries and clinical advances that improve human health, and to draw attention to the importance of public support of science.**

<http://www.laskerfoundation.org/about/>

From the Historical Archive*

*The “Group” Award is no Longer Given

1951 - Alcoholics Anonymous

The American Public Health Association presents a Lasker Award for 1951 to Alcoholics Anonymous in recognition of its unique and highly successful approach to that age-old public health and social problem, alcoholism.

Since its founding sixteen years ago, Alcoholics Anonymous has brought recovery to more than 120,000 chronic drinkers formerly thought hopeless. Today this world fellowship of 4,000 groups, resident in 38 countries, is rehabilitating 25,000 additional persons yearly. In emphasizing alcoholism as an illness, the social stigma associated with this condition is being blotted out.

Alcoholics Anonymous works upon the novel principle that a recovered alcoholic can reach and treat a fellow sufferer as no one else can. In so doing, the recovered alcoholic maintains his own sobriety; the man he treats soon becomes a physician to the next new applicant, thus creating an ever-expanding chain reaction of liberation, with patients welded together by bonds of common suffering, common understanding and stimulating action in a great cause.

<http://www.laskerfoundation.org/awards/show/historical-awards/>

Agenda Item A:

Doc 1: Will the appendix violate any traditions?

Tradition 11: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

The appendix is not promoting the 2012 list. Anyone reading the appendix will already have a copy of the book.

Tradition 5: Each group has but one primary purpose... to carry it's message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

The addition of this appendix helps carry the message and helps readers of the book , especially newcomers, realize the contemporary relevance of the book.

Agenda Item A:

Doc 1: Will the appendix violate any traditions? (con't)

Tradition 6: An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

The Library of Congress undertook its review without A.A.'s awareness. A.A. did not solicit consideration for this list. No affiliation existed then, or now.

Agenda Item A:

Further remarks:

The proposed appendix is also similar in purpose to appendices III and V. In those two appendices, the opinions of medical professionals and religious leaders lend credence to the program of recovery laid out in the book.

The proposed appendix acknowledges that the book has indeed had a profound effect upon our society.

Agenda Item A:

Doc 2: This proposal requests consideration to include in the book “Alcoholics Anonymous”, both the AA Preamble and the Responsibility Statement

Request from District 29 (Texas)

Agenda Item A:

Doc 2:

AA Preamble: Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Agenda Item A:

Doc 2:

Responsibility Statement:

When Anyone, Anywhere, Reaches Out For Help,
I Want The Hand Of A.A. Always To Be There. And For
That, I Am Responsible.

Agenda Item A:

Doc 2:

The rationale is as follows:

In the spirit of pp. 162-163, from the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*: “Thus we grow and so can you, though you be but one man with this book in your hand. We believe and hope it contains all you will need to begin;”

Agenda Item A:

Doc 2:

Adding the A.A. Preamble and The Responsibility Statement to the “Big Book”, will allow our basic text, Alcoholics Anonymous, to have all the necessary documents, text, et cetera, to initiate and conduct a meeting or found a new group.

Agenda Item A:

Doc 2:

Further comments:

- The Preamble and the Responsibility Statement are both AA conference-approved literature.
 - The Preamble says who we are and the Responsibility Statement proclaims our mission.
- Our basic text is used as a reference book and it is an asset to include this pertinent information.
 - To have these widely-used documents added and readily available in the Big Book is an asset for meetings large or small.

**CONFERENCE ACTIONS REGARDING PROPOSALS TO ADD THE A.A.
PREAMBLE AND RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT TO *ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS***

1993

The committee considered a suggestion to add the Preamble to the Big Book and suggested that since most of the Preamble was taken from the foreword to the first edition of the Big Book, no action be taken.

2011

Committee recommendation noted below did not result in Conference Advisory Action:

The committee recommended that the A.A. Preamble be added to the front inside pages of the Big Book and asked that the trustees' Literature Committee provide a report that includes sample placement options, and any other consideration, to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for review.

2012

The committee considered a request to add the "A.A. Preamble" to the front inside pages of the 'Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and took no action.

Note: Proposals regarding the Responsibility Declaration pertained to changing the wording; the Conference reaffirmed to leave the Responsibility Declaration as originally published. There have been no previous requests to add the Responsibility Declaration to the Big Book.

Agenda Item A:

Doc 3: Request to add an endnote to Bill W.'s story in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, acknowledging co-founder, Bob S.

Request from Staten Island Service Assembly (Area 49)

Agenda Item A:

Doc. 3

Consider adding an endnote to Bill's Story along the lines of:

“The story of A.A.'s other co-founder, Dr. Bob S., is found on page 171 “Dr. Bob's Nightmare””

they seek. At these informal gatherings one may often see from 50 to 200 persons. We are growing in numbers and power.*

An alcoholic in his cups is an unlovely creature. Our struggles with them are variously strenuous, comic, and tragic. One poor chap committed suicide in my home. He could not, or would not, see our way of life.

There is, however, a vast amount of fun about it all. I suppose some would be shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity. But just underneath there is deadly earnestness. Faith has to work twenty-four hours a day in and through us, or we perish.

Most of us feel we need look no further for Utopia. We have it with us right here and now. Each day my friend's simple talk in our kitchen multiplies itself in a widening circle of peace on earth and good will to men.

*Bill W., co-founder of A.A.,
died January 24, 1971.*

*The story of A.A.'s other co-founder, Dr. Bob S.,
is found on page 171; "Dr. Bob's Nightmare."*



Something like this.

Agenda Item A:

Doc 3 - Further comments:

The reason for this request is that when we started reading “Dr. Bob’s Nightmare” in my home group’s Big Book Discussion, numerous members shared that they did not know Dr. Bob’s story is in the Big Book, I have had the same experience with sponsees.

Since Dr. Bob is one of our beloved co-founders, perhaps a little extra effort to point out his story is well-placed.

Request submitted by Lu D., Brooklyn, NY

Thank You!