

ALTERNATE DELEGATE AGENDA PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

2024 Conference Committee on Finance

ITEM C: Review progress report reflecting shared experience from the Fellowship reflecting on possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders.

The PURPOSE of this topic: A call for shared experience from the fellowship. In response to a Committee Consideration from the 73rd General Service Conference suggesting that the trustees' Literature Committee seek input from the Fellowship (including but not limited to Area delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s Founders, the trustees' Literature Committee agreed it would be beneficial to gather shared experience from the Fellowship regarding this topic.

The conference committee on Finance support the request for thoughtful sharing and discussion, from the top of the triangle regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s Founders, with an additional consideration the viewpoints be shared with the fellowship in addition to total responses by regions as provided in the background.

In response to our committees shared thoughts, we found a reading that supports, in most part, a common viewpoint.

An Excerpt from The Language of the Heart, Bill W.

“Since this collection is by its nature an historical document, several characteristics should be mentioned. First, repetition: The articles appeared originally in a periodical publication, and Bill could never be sure that any reader had seen a previous one. Thus, he often repeated ideas or illustrations, and those repetitions have been retained to assure the integrity of Bill's work. Second, some material has become outdated; for example, a few ideas that were articulated in very early articles about the Traditions proved unworkable in the light of later experience, but for the sake of his “historical accuracy, earlier versions have not been edited. And last, Bill was a man of his times, and some readers may find unfamiliar idioms and terminology, or may be taken aback by phraseology that would be considered inappropriate today. Once again, the original language (with a few changes that necessitated no rewriting) has been retained, because any tampering with phraseology might also have tampered with the meaning.

Bill W.'s most-quoted description of Grapevine appears in AA Comes of Age: “Grapevine is the mirror of AA thought and action, worldwide. It is a sort of magic carpet on which all of us can travel from one distant AA outpost to another, and it has become a wonderful exchange medium of our current thought and experience.” It is the hope of Grapevine editors that Bill W.'s timeless insights, written in the 1940s, '50s, and '60s, will serve as a mirror for AA members in the 1980s and beyond, reminding us of what it used to be like, documenting what happened and why it happened, and illuminating the present with the wisdom of AA's experience in its first thirty years.”

Thank you for for listening. Concept II, the conference listens, then speaks.

