



# SENY Area 49 Delegates Day of Sharing March 5, 2022

2022 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON LITERATURE

# Proposed Agenda Item #52 & #55

- ▶ Consider requests that the chapter titled “The Doctors Opinion” in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition.
- ▶ PAI#52 from Dave T. “I move that upon the creation of a Fifth Edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the chapter titled: **The Doctors Opinion** be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition, published in 1939.
- ▶ PAI#55 from Eric B. “Restore the original page numbering of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, by making the **The Doctors Opinion** page one, not **Bill’s Story**.”

“The Doctor’s Opinion was moved from page one to the Roman Numerals when the Second Edition was published. There is no documentation in the archives as to why this change happened.

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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.



# Reasoning supporting the proposal

- ▶ Data suggests that the average reader does not read the Preface and Forwards. Instead they start on page one.
- ▶ How can A.A. take the chance of losing alcoholics because **The Doctor's Opinion** was moved?
- ▶ The information contained in this chapter is of paramount importance in understanding the disease of Alcoholism.
- ▶ Without the guidance of a sponsor an alcoholic might miss this vital information by skipping to page one.

# Opposing views of the change

- ▶ 1995 Conference Advisory Action: “The first 164 pages of The Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forwards, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion’, ‘Doctor Bob’s Nightmare’ and the Appendices remain as is”
- ▶ Member’s would have to re-memorize page numbers.

# Conclusion

- ▶ PAI#52 was approved with substantial unanimity at member's homegroup and District. The proposal was voted on at the members area and received 60% in favor with 67% needed for substantial unanimity.
- ▶ PAI#55 was voted in favor at member's group and district. No mention of substantial unanimity.
- ▶ A PowerPoint presentation was created by David T. regarding his motion.

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