

2024 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM K: Consider a request that the words “Donation” and “Contribution” be swapped under Warranty One in the pamphlet, “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the October 27, 2023, AAWS Board Meeting Minutes:

Recommendation: Regarding a proposal (originally P.A.I. #9 submitted in 2022), the committee recommended that the AAWS board forward this item to the 74th General Service Conference, adding background regarding the 2006 Advisory Action as it relates to the terms "contribution" and "donation." The committee discussed that AAWS considered the original PAI submitted last year. The pamphlet was revised as follows: "So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit contributions from individual members, we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense" (the 2006 Advisory Action recommended that the word "donation" be replaced with the word "contribution" in A.A.W.S. literature as it comes up for reprint.) However, the submitter believes that the wording should be as noted in the proposal. The committee agreed that forwarding this item to the 74th General Service Conference might be helpful, given that sentiment within the Fellowship may have shifted since the 2006 Advisory Action.

Advisory Action from the 56th General Service Conference (2006):

Finance

It was recommended that:

The word “donation” be replaced with the word “contribution” in A.A.W.S. literature as it comes up for reprint.

Background:

1. Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) Submission Form - PAI9 (2022)
2. AAWS response to submitter (November 2023)
3. Current pamphlet “Twelve Concepts Illustrated” available on GSO A.A. website <https://www.aa.org/twelve-concepts-world-service-illustrated>

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(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion. PAI #9

Our Group would like to make a motion to suggest the word "Donation" and "Contribution" be swapped around in the 12 Concepts Illustrated under Warranty One.

From: *“So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit individual member’s donations, “we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense.”*

To: *“So long as we refuse to take outside donations and limit individual member’s contributions, “we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense.”*

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

Given the definitions clearly the words are misplaced in this paragraph and could give new GSRs a misrepresentation as to why we don't use the word “Donation” in the rest of our literature.

(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.

The New Horizons Group Of Alcoholics Anonymous in Bend Oregon Area 58 District 5

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

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2006 Conference Advisory Action states the word “Donation” (When being used as money given within the fellowship) be replaced with the word “Contribution” in AAWS Literature as it comes up for reprint.

The reason we changed the name of the "Alcoholic Foundation" to the "General Service Office" when we adopted the 7th tradition is because words like "foundation and donation" can imply a charitable organization.

The 7th tradition, like all the rest, is a spiritual principle. One of the ways I've been taught to support the 7th Tradition is to never use the "D" word in an AA setting.

We don't "donate" to Alcoholics Anonymous. We "Contribute". Groups, Districts, Areas, and even AA as a whole, don't accept "donations" We are fully self supporting through our own "Contributions". The word "donation" implies something given for charity. My sobriety is not a charity. It's something I get to participate in. In the same way I get to contribute to my household bills. I don't donate to the electric company or my mortgage. I DO however "donate" to the Animal Shelter, Meals on Wheels, and other charitable organizations.

Questions to ask yourself that may help this distinction to make sense. Do you "donate" to your household bills where you live? Or do you contribute? Do you donate to your state at the end of the year, and the IRS when you do your taxes? Or are you contributing member of society?

“In the midst of this exciting turn of affairs, the Conference agreed that the Alcoholic Foundation ought to be renamed the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, and this was done. The word “Foundation” stood for charity, paternalism and maybe big money. A.A. would have none of these; from here out we could assume full responsibility and pay our expenses ourselves.” P-44 Legacy Of Service

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

That our literature be corrected to be consistent with the use of the wording with the rest of our Conference approved literature.

**-(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission. Carrie B.
GSR New Horizons Group**

(7) Final comments:

Thank you for the consideration

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CONFIDENTIAL: 74th General Service Conference Background

LIT
Item K
Doc 2

November 3, 2023

Via Email
Carrie B.
New Horizons Group

Dear Carrie,

Warm greetings from your friends at GSO!

This correspondence is to follow up on the Proposal (originally PAI #9) which you submitted for the 73rd General Service Conference.

Consider revising the pamphlet "Twelve Concepts Illustrated" under Warranty One by changing the use of the words "donation" and "contribution." To read as follows:

"So long as we refuse to take outside donations and limit contributions from individual members, "we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense."

At their October 27, 2023 meeting, the AAWS Board discussed the proposal and agreed to forward to the 74th General Service Conference

As you are aware, the original PAI submitted last year was considered by AAWS, and the pamphlet was revised as follows: "So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit contributions from individual members, "we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense" (in accordance with the 2006 Advisory Action recommended that: The word "donation" be replaced with the word "contribution" in A.A.W.S. literature as it comes up for reprint.)

However, the AAWS Board agreed that it may be useful to forward this item to the 74th General Service Conference given the fact that sentiment within the Fellowship may have shifted since the 2006 Advisory Action.

Following the General Service Conference in April 2024, I will be in touch to let you know the results of the Conference deliberations pertaining to this item.

Kindest regards,

Pamela P.
Secretary to A.A. World Services Board
General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous
475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor

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New York, NY 10115
(212) 870-3142
www.aa.org