Compiled from the 72nd General Service Conference agenda

With the purpose of understanding proposed changes of "Plain and Simple Language"

Agenda Item K: Review Progress Report for *"4th Edition of Alcoholic Anonymous"* Plain and Simple Language

- The committee reviewed and agreed to forward a progress report, including an addendum dated January 18, 2022, from the Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature regarding translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.
- 11 Proposed agenda items pertaining to this translation – 8 of them to discontinue, rescind or stop this translation
- Objective is to translate to a 5th grade reading level – not to remove God or other political issues (48% of US general population has a reading comprehension at Level 3) (Only 17% of US population that did not finish high school have level 3 literacy skills
- Some requests for workbooks, study guides, & dictionaries
- Not considering side-by-side format; professional translator method chosen with AA members through the Subcommittee, GSO, the Trustees Literature Committee and GSO will guide the process

Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book)	Excerpt (From unedited raw sample material)
We believe, and so suggested a few years ago, that the action of alcohol on these chronic alcoholics is the manifestation of an allergy; that the phenomenon of craving is limited to this class and never occurs in the average temperate drinker. These allergic types can never safely use alcohol in any form at all; and once having formed the habit and found they cannot break it, once having lost their self-confidence, their reliance upon things human, their problems pile up on them and become astonishingly difficult to solve.	We believe that alcohol affects chronic alcoholics differently than it affects average drinkers. It interacts with their bodies almost like an allergy, forcing them to behave in unusual and unpredictable ways. The intense cravings that chronic alcoholics experience almost never happen for occasional drinkers. For anyone with this alcohol "allergy," though, cravings may be constant and hard to control. This means chronic alcoholics can never safely use alcohol in any form at all. Once they have experienced alcohol's affects, they will form a drinking habit quickly and struggle to stop. They will lose self-confidence, neglect their relationships, and watch their problems pile up, feeling totally unable to solve them.
Frothy emotional appeal seldom suffices.	Begging these people to stop drinking never helps
And it means, of course, that we are going to talk about God. Here difficulty arises with agnostics,	It also means that we are going to talk about God. If you aren't sure that God exists—in other words, if you are an agnostic— this may worry you.

Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book)	Excerpt (From unedited raw sample material)
Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it – then you are ready to take certain steps.	Many of the stories we share in this book describe the experiences that we had as AA's founders. What we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you want what we have— and are willing to work hard to get it—then you are ready to get started.
Many of us exclaimed, "What an order! I can't go through with it." Do not be discouraged. No one among us has been able to maintain anything like perfect adherence to these principles. We are not saints. The point is we are willing to grow along spiritual lines. The principles we have set down are guides to progress. We claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection.	If this is your first time reading through these steps, they may seem difficult … or even impossible. Do not be discouraged. No one has ever carried out these steps perfectly. We are not saints. We are simply people who are willing to grow, both spiritually and personally. These principles are here to guide our progress. And our shared goal is spiritual progress, not spiritual perfection.
In trying to make these arrangements our actor may sometimes be quite virtuous. He may be kind, considerate, patient, generous; even modest and self-sacrificing. One the other hand, he may be mean egotistical, selfish and dishonest. But as with most humans, he is more likely to have varied traits.	If this is your first time reading through these steps, they may seem difficult … or even impossible. Do not be discouraged. No one has ever carried out these steps perfectly. We are not saints. We are simply people who are willing to grow, both spiritually and personally. These principles are here to guide our progress. And our shared goal is spiritual progress, not spiritual perfection.

Alcoholic Anonymous (The Big Book)	Excepts (from unedited raw sample material)
In trying to make these arrangements our actor may sometimes be quite virtuous. He may be kind, considerate, patient, generous; even modest and self-sacrificing. One the other hand, he may be mean egotistical, selfish and dishonest. But as with most humans, he is more likely to have varied traits.	And as they try their best to control all the parts and players, they may seem kind, patient, generous. On the other hand, they may seem mean, selfish, and dishonest. Since they're human, they most likely show a mix of these traits.
We never apologize to anyone for depending upon our Creator. We can laugh at those who think that spirituality is the way of weakness. Paradoxically, it is the way of strength. The verdict of the ages is that faith means courage.	And we are not ashamed of relying on God, or of needing God. We know that our faith and trust isn't a sign of weakness, it is a sign of strength. Faith is a kind of courage, just as trusting God is a kind of courage.
With few exceptions, our book thus far has spoken of men. But what we have said applies quite as much to women. Our activities in behalf of women who drink are on the increase. There is every evidence that women regain their health as readily as men if they try our suggestions. But for every man who drinks others are involved – the wife who trembles in fear of the next debauch; the mother and father who see their son wasting away.	So far, this book has spoken only to alcoholics themselves. But every person who drinks involves other people in their alcoholism. There may be a spouse who dreads the next drinking spree, children who fear their drunk parents, or mothers and fathers who see their grown children getting sicker and sicker.

Below is the excerpt taken from the Resulting Action Report for the 72nd General Service Conference on Agenda K "Plain and simple Language"

KEY		
	AA	Advisory Action (Conference Recommendation passed with 2/3 substantial unanimity)
	CC	Committee Consideration - Goes to Trustees for review (or clarifies the reasoning for no action)
	FA	Floor Action
	TNA	Committee Took No Action - effectively end of the line for the proposal
	SM	Simple Majority (Suggestion to the Trustees)
	VD	Voted Down (Recommendation did not pass / did not result in Advisory Action)

Committee #	Committee Name	Item	Item Text	AA	CC	FA	TNA	SM	VD	Notes
VI	Literature	K	Review progress report regarding the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.		x	x				Project continues with more to be revealed next year. Full Conference declined to consider a Floor Action to limit content being translated.