

Dear General Service Conference Members:

For some time, the General Service Board has been involved in litigation concerning the Printer's Copy Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Board has been in communication with Conference members throughout the year, whenever possible, and many of you have shared your thoughts on this matter. In our continuing effort to keep you up to date, we are pleased to share the following information relative to the successful resolution of this litigation.

Today a stipulation was filed with the New York State Supreme Court by A.A.W.S. to voluntarily dismiss the case between Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. and the holder of the 1939 Printer's Copy Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous, our Big Book. This stipulation was submitted in conjunction with the parties agreeing to settle and mutually release each other from the litigation.

The parties have reached an agreement and believe this to be in their best interests. The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous has approved a settlement and mutual release agreement in order to avoid the further expense, inconvenience, and uncertainty of continuing litigation. As the result of the agreement, A.A.W.S. waives any claims to ownership of the Manuscript and will pay \$135,000 to reimburse a portion of the holder's out-of-pocket costs, expenses and legal fees associated with the action.

The Boards understand that some members of the Fellowship will have many further specific questions about this legal issue. The Boards will be prepared to discuss their decisions and actions in the near future. At this time, we ask that you direct any questions and comments about the settlement to the Public Information desk at the General Service Office, so that all inquiries can be captured and responded to appropriately.