

The IWS GROUP of ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
PO BOX 1212
CROTON FALLS NY 10519-1212

March 25, 1994

Letter to a concerned AA member

Dear _____,

Thank you for your response to our last letter. Sorry about the delay in responding – we are not organized and sometimes it slows things down. This letter, we hope will clarify what appears to be some misinformation you have received.

Enclosed is a compendium of correspondence concerning our MINI EDITION. Please see the letter of June 18, 1993 from attorney Cynthia Clark Weber, stating "AAWS does not object to your sale of the Mini Edition of The Big Book."

We are concerned that you have been given to believe that "170 Intergroups asked you not to publish 'our' literature." This is just not true. NO intergroups have asked us to stop publishing. You are one of fewer than 10 persons who have asked us to stop publishing the MINI EDITION.

Also, we do not speak for A.A. as a whole, nor do we try to want to. The only thing we have been asked to desist from is the perception of affiliation with G.S.O. As you can see from our correspondence we have gone out of our way to eliminate that perception and we regret our part in having caused it.

We all agree that when an A.A. group goes into business it can confuse the still suffering, we wish it wasn't as necessary as it has become, such confusion pales next to the confusion the still suffering endure because they don't know what A.A. is about. If the BIG BOOK were available to all, we could eliminate a lot of that suffering (especially in the more impoverished places in the world).

We regret your discomfort at our group's efforts to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholics. We struggled to come up with a means of carrying the message to those who suffered and would not be readily exposed to it. We were stuck, as a group it is our responsibility to carry the message to those who suffer. Many of our members travel widely and brought back stories of unavailable or unaffordable literature here and abroad. While we had many variations on exactly what the message is, we all agreed the message is contained in the Big Book and that we could give it away.

We researched ways of giving away the book within our means. We discovered that the Big Book was being printed at a very low cost, but it was unavailable to the Fellowship at a low cost. We wondered why. Once we realized we could get the BIG BOOK out at a quarter of the price available from G.S.O., we decided this was the best way our groups could carry the message. In fact we felt morally obligated to.

Please realize, in any case, that we are just trying to help and stay in the Traditions while doing it.

Yours in love and service,

Leona T., Sec.

PS: the last letter was signed by our then secretary John G., sorry you had difficulty reading the signature.