

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A.A.'s Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* Now Available in eBook Format

December 9, 2011 (NEW YORK) – Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) is pleased to announce that our two central texts describing the A.A. program of action for recovery from alcoholism are now available in eBook format in English, French, and Spanish.

Publication in this digital media format will give broader distribution and access to A.A.'s basic textbook, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, known popularly as the Big Book, which has helped millions of men and women throughout the world, and in all walks of life, find a new and satisfying way of life without alcohol.

The current, official publisher's version of the Big Book (Fourth Edition), along with *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, can be purchased for \$6 each from the A.A.W.S. Online Store for access on iPhones and iPads. The A.A. eReader App can be downloaded for free from the Apple App store. In the near future, the books will also be available for the various Android platforms.

"We are thrilled at the prospect of reaching an even wider audience to offer A.A.'s message of hope to the still-suffering alcoholic who may not have had access to our basic literature," said Ward Ewing, nonalcoholic trustee and Chairperson of the General Service Board of A.A. "In addition, this eBook format will enhance the way members can read their favorite A.A. texts."

A.A. members, many of whom read, re-read, and quote from the literature at A.A. meetings as part of their recovery, will be able to search for specific passages quickly and highlight key words and sentences in the highly portable format.

Also, because the font size and type can be changed, these eBooks will be more universally accessible to those members needing larger print.

Alcoholics Anonymous was first published in 1939, when the "Fellowship" of A.A. was four years old and had a membership of about one hundred. It was written by co-founder Bill W., with each chapter being thoroughly edited and vetted by early A.A. members in Akron, Ohio, and New York City.

The second edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* appeared in 1955, when A.A. membership had grown to about 146,000 in 50 countries. Two further editions followed, in 1976 and 2001.

In 1975, the Big Book sold its one-millionth copy in the English language. That copy was presented to then President Richard Nixon. In 2005, the twenty-five-millionth copy was presented to the Warden of San Quentin Prison, where the first

A.A. prison group was held. In 2010, the thirty-millionth copy was presented to the American Medical Association, which declared alcoholism an illness in 1956.

First published in April 1953, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* was written by Bill W., with the benefit of hindsight and experience, to offer an explicit view of the principles by which A.A. members recover and by which their Fellowship functions.

Today, more than one million copies of the Big Book are distributed every year in the English language alone (it is translated into 64 languages), and A.A. membership has grown to approximately two million with a presence in more than 180 countries.

To download the free A.A. eReader App, go to the Apple App Store. To purchase these two A.A. copyrighted eBooks, go to the A.A.W.S. Online Store at www.aa.org.

For general information about Alcoholics Anonymous, visit www.aa.org, and for those seeking help for a drinking problem please look for A.A. in your local community at the following link:
http://www.aa.org/lang/en/central_offices.cfm?origpage=373.

For Media, contact: Public Information Desk at the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous at 212-870-3119 or publicinfo@aa.org.