

DELEGATE's Corner

This time I would like to share about Literature.

"The Alcoholic with Mental Health Issues"

The Trustees Literature committee is requesting a wide range of A.A. recovery experience from members with mental health issues, and from those who sponsor such members, for inclusion in literature on this topic. This request is in response to the 2015 General Service Conference recommendation that the Trustees Literature committee develop literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues.

In 2014, the Trustees Literature committee requested that, whenever gathering sharing, consideration be given to stories from disabled veterans and from non-believers (atheists and agnostics).

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in a 12-point font. Please include your complete name, address and email/phone information. The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not your story is selected for publication. Please email your sharing to: Literature@aa.org and put "The Alcoholic with Mental Health Issues" in the subject line of the message. Or, you can mail to - Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

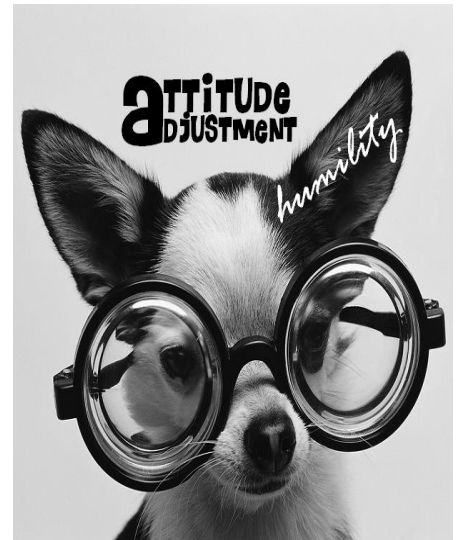
"AA for the Woman"

The Trustees Literature committee is seeking stories from women in A.A. in response to the 2015 General Service Conference recommendation that the pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman" be revised by gathering current sharing from women in A.A. including "stories from women in the military, single mothers, and women of diverse backgrounds".

In 2014, the Trustees Literature committee requested that, whenever gathering sharing, consideration be given to stories from disabled veterans and from non-believers (atheists and agnostics).

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in a 12-point font. Please include your complete name, address and email/phone information. The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not your story is selected for publication. Please email your sharing to:

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AREA 09 UPCOMING EVENTS

August 9—Sunday
Area Service Committee
Hosted by District 3

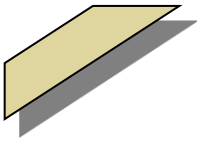
September 13—Sunday
Assembly
Hosted by District 11

October 11—Sunday
ELECTIONS
Hosted by District 4

November 8 -Sunday
Area Service Committee
Hosted by District 17

November 14 –Saturday
SERVATHON
Hosted by District 1

December 13—Sunday
Area Service Committee
Hosted by District 30



Literature@aa.org and put "A.A. for the Woman" in the subject line of the message. Or, you can mail to - Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

"A.A. for Gay and Lesbian Alcoholic"

The Trustees Literature committee is seeking stories from A.A. members who are gay, lesbians, bisexual, transgendered or gender nonconforming, especially being a newcomer and sponsorship. This request is in response to the 2015 General Service Conference recommendation that the pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" be revised to include a wider range of A.A. recovery experience. The title of the pamphlet will also be revised to reflect this broader scope.

In 2014, the Trustees Literature committee requested that, whenever gathering sharing, consideration be given to stories from disabled veterans and from non-believers (atheists and agnostics).

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in a 12-point font. Please include your complete name, address and email/phone information. The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not your story is selected for publication. Please email your sharing to: Literature@aa.org and put "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" in the subject line of the message. Or, you can mail to Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

Deadline for submissions on these three items: October 15, 2015

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

Cesar F.
Mid-Southern California Area 09
Panel 64 Delegate

Following a gossip binge, we can well ask ourselves these questions:

Why did we say what we did? Were we only trying to be helpful and informative? Or were we not trying to feel superior by confessing the other fellow's sins? Or, because of fear and dislike, were we not really aiming to damage him?

This would be an honest attempt to examine ourselves, rather than the other fellow.

-- AA Grapevine

A.A. HISTORY AUGUST

August 1

1943 - Washington Times-Herald reports on AA clubhouse, to protect anonymity article withholds address.

August 3

1954 - Brinkley S. gets sober at Towns Hospital after 50th detox.

August 8

1879 - Dr. Bob born St. Johnsbury, VT.

August 9

1943 - LA groups announce 1000 members in 11 groups.

August 11

1938 - Akron & NY members begin writing stories for Big Book.

August 15

1890 - E. M. Jellinek is born. Author of "The Disease Concept of Alcoholism" and "Jellinek Curve".

August 16

1939 - Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia admit first alcoholic to St. Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio.

August 18

1988 - 1st Canadian National AA Convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

August 19

1941 - 1st AA Meeting in Colorado is held in Denver.

August 25

1943 - AA group donates Big Book to public library in Quincy, MA.

August 26

1941 - Bill writes Dr. Bob to tell him Works Publishing has been incorporated.

August 28

1954 - *24 Hours a Day* is published by Richmond W.

August without specific dates:

1934: Rowland H and Cebra persuade court to parole Ebby T. to them.

1939: Dr. Bob wrote and may have signed article for Faith magazine.

1941: 1st meeting in Orange County, California held in Anaheim.

1981: Sales of the Big Book passes 3 million.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: AN AA'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE INTERGROUP BOOTH AT THE ORANGE COUNTY FAIR – JULY 2014]

It may be time for us to ask ourselves who are the trusted servants we are selecting for service positions, such as Intergroup Representative. It's easy to push someone into the position because they have a year of sobriety or 9 months, and are willing to be of service, or willing to take a commitment if it means showing up once a month and little else. How many of these A.A.'s attend tradition meetings or have read A.A. history?

Public Information can be a sticky subject in A.A. When A.A.'s look at Tradition Eleven they usually only consider the phrase "attraction rather than promotion", without considering the history behind the tradition and its deeper meaning. Was not the tradition written to stifle A.A.'s from self-promoting; hence the phrase "anonymity at the level of press, radio and films". Yet many overlook that and read Tradition Eleven as a statute against any presence before the public. When the Big Book was proposed during A.A.'s infancy to carry the message to alcoholics outside Akron, Cleveland and New York, there were many who felt such a book would ruin the word of mouth purity of the A.A. message. Yet, where would we be if that "promotional" book was never written.

Promotion. Attraction. Information. These words come up in any discussion of Tradition Eleven and for the life of me I'm not sure of the difference. I'm not going to print definitions. I know when doing step work an individual has to decide if his actions are his/her will or God's will. The same reasoning can be used with attraction vs. promotion. If I am taking an action for the benefit of A.A. with no self-seeking motives, I am practicing attraction. When my motives trump the message and my ego takes over, I am promoting. That's why I have no problem with A.A. pamphlets placed in racks at a library, or an ad on a bus with no mention of names and no photographs. It's anonymous and the message is that recovery is available. Staffed information booths at health fairs are okay as long as the A.A. is aware to not be photographed. It's for informational purposes only. Information booths at carnivals and fairs present a different issue. Are people not there to have "fun"? Can they be serious about recovery?

There is a good argument that A.A. booths can reach alcoholics at fairs as there are many people drinking, and loved ones of drinkers are there, too, and may pick up information to slip into someone's drawer, as such. And being in a big information tent, as is the case with the Orange County Fair, alongside political parties and self-help and twelve-step groups, vector control, etc., then we fit right in. Right?

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How an "Old Timer" Greeted a Newcomer

His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for the past four years of life. He is brilliant -- kind of profound and very, very bright. He became an alcoholic while attending college. Things have only gone downhill since. Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative A.A. club. They want to develop a meeting for the students but are not sure how to go about it. One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt, and wild hair.

The meeting has already started and so Bill starts looking around the room for a seat. The room is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now, the well-dressed people are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. Bill gets closer and closer and closer to the front of the room, and when he realizes there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet. By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the evening's speaker realizes that from way at the back of the meeting, an "old timer" is slowly making his way toward Bill.

Now the "old timer" is in his eighties, and has silver-gray hair, and a three-piece suit. A spiritual man, very elegant, dignified, courtly. He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor? It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy. The meeting is utterly silent except for the clicking of the old man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The speaker can't continue the meeting until the "old timer" does what he has to do.

And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself, sits down next to Bill, and welcomes him so he doesn't feel outcast and alone. Everyone chokes up with emotion. When the speaker gains control, he says, "What I'm about to say, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget. Be careful how you live. You may be the only Big Book some people will ever read."



"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers."

Let us ... distinguish clearly between "organizing the A.A. movement" and setting up, in a reasonably business-like manner, its few essential services of contact and propagation. Once we do that, all will be well. The million or so brother alcoholics who are still sick will then continue to get the break we 60,000 A.A.s have already had. Let's give our "service desks" the hand they so well deserve.

-- Bill W.

The A.A. Grapevine, July 1948

Well, if you've been to the information tent at the fair you soon find most of these groups give away goodies – pens, candy, stickers, toys. That's how they draw you to their booth: Promotion. Maybe you can grab a pen without looking them in the eye and move on. Maybe you're stuck listening to their pitch. The A.A. booth has been different, strictly informational- some pamphlets and directories if you want them, and an anonymous A.A. to answer questions. No trinkets and baubles. I've sat at that booth. It can be pretty dull. But it's not like that anymore.

This year the Intergroup Public Information Committee has decided to challenge tradition by employing a Vegas-type spinning wheel with prizes such as a mini-Big Book, meeting directories, pamphlets, Desai bottled water and "serenity stones." A.A. is now trying to draw people over to it's booth. The A.A. booth is no longer strictly informational, now it's about fun. This is promotion. This is no longer about carrying the message, it is fun and games. Someone got the bright idea they could make the A.A. message more appealing. But appealing to whom? The alcoholic?

The A.A. booth also has Al-Anon literature available. While Al-Anon is closely related to A.A. it is not A.A. You cannot buy Al-Anon literature from GSO or O.C. Central Office. There is a reason for that. Look at Traditions 6 and 10. And look at Tradition 5, our primary purpose. Alcoholics. Period.

At the recent Intergroup meeting the issue of the spinning wheel, the gifts and the non-A.A. serenity stones was hotly debated. The Al-Anon pamphlets were not mentioned. It probably wouldn't matter, as the Intergroup reps voted in favor of keeping the spinning wheel, the devaluing of the Big Book by giving it away, of the serenity stones. They had no problem with it. During debate it was pointed out the items were donated, so I guess that made it okay. The bottom line is that whatever it takes to bring people over to that booth is okay with the Intergroup reps.

So, the next time your meeting has an opening for Intergroup Representative, and you feel like railroading the guy with eight months, and if you believe strongly in A.A.'s Twelve Traditions, you might consider standing for the commitment yourself.

Rex L. -- Santa Ana



"Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all."

More about Step 8 – Buddy T.

Becoming Willing

"If I work this step to the best of my ability, the promise of living a life free of isolation from my fellow man and God will come to be."

Who did I harm?

"This program is about becoming a better person, and improving one's life. It is about living life in an unselfish and compassionate way."

Letting Go of Hurts

"We need to address omissions as well as the obvious. For me, that was the most difficult part."

Step Toward Maturity

"Just as I have maybe been able to point out all the inappropriate behaviors of others, I have to face my own."

Moving Forward

"The only thing I can do now is, not look to the past, but move forward."



"The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities."

"This concept continues the defining of responsibilities and authority begun in the earlier concepts. It limits the role of the Trustees in the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. and A.A. World Services, Inc. to the kind of oversight achieved by electing the directors of those independent entities, but essentially discouraging them from playing day-to-day roles as active administrators or executives of those companies."

-- Anonymous

