

29-31 July 2016

Archives

Lyla Area 50: Individual Group histories on smartphone. Documents should be of historical value, catalogued. Meeting minutes. Can be OCRd.

Website, "Anonymity vs. Technology"

Rob Area 50: Social media, meeting lists

Thea Area 48. Anonymity is getting my ego out of my way. Don't post number of sober years on Facebook. AAWS site is simplified to 3 buttons.

Area 48 will add a section for Professional Cooperation. 187 email addresses (officers, committee chairs, DCMs, not GSRs), \$250/year from Godaddy. Considering Google for Nonprofits (unlimited storage). Data mining by Google for the nonprofit accounts too?

Me Area 47: Email for GSRs too. Emailing the Assembly minutes. Blogs for officers. Signup form for Treatment BTG. AA meeting schedule PDFs.

John Area 49: couldn't attend

Questions: Transfer of funds through website? Yes for 49 and 48, for event registrations. Online meetings passing the electronic hat? No. Google Analytics?

Size of website committee? Enough technical members to cover the need?

Thea: a website has to have an owner whose address and full name are on whois.org. A Staten Island individual is setting up a US-wide meeting-list site, and has good SEO but not good updating. Rob: "Slack" for group messaging; "Trella" for project management.

Accessibility

Area 47 not here.

Sally Area 48: Pamphlet is on their website, <http://aahmbny.org/ServicePositions/accessibility/HMBaccessibilitypamphlet.pdf>. Includes babysitting available in one group.

Questions: Big Book audiobook on phone. What service opportunities for the disabled? Bring meetings to Brain Trauma Center; supplies; greeting. Require people to use the mike, some are hard of hearing. Extra pairs of reading glasses. Use nursing homes as group meeting sites. Picking up people in wheelchairs to carry them is dangerous esp. to people with brittle bones. Breathing problems may require air conditioning. Use of the "accessible" icon for meetings that aren't *fully* accessible.

Spanish is also an accessibility issue.

Corrections

Mark Area 47: Used to take meetings to Attica, which was the second prison after San Quentin to have AA. Prisoner Sammy Kaye started it (also wrote the Twelve Rewards).

Can share character defects in a general way without divulging crimes that aren't known yet. Corrections Correspondence. Pre-release (BTG).

Brenda Area 48: Don't take contraband in. Don't sign up for BTG with false contact info. Burnout is a problem if only a few people are bringing in meetings. Brenda is doing a corrections workshop August 17, involving some corrections institutions.

Dave Area 50: 8 county jails and 8 state facilities. Some individuals are organizing people to bring in meetings without participation of any AA group or district. Taking in a meeting is time-consuming, not for everybody. GSO especially needs women for Correspondence. Donating Grapevine subscriptions.

Questions: Pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" is not allowed by some facilities.

Brenda: Their jail releases are covered directly rather than through GSO BTG. Lyla: "Sharing Behind the Walls" for recruitment of volunteers. New video "A New Freedom" is now available online.

Public Information, "Addressing Misinformation about AA"

Jeanie Area 48: Several AAWS publications about what AA does and doesn't do, is and isn't. Distribute packets of pamphlets. Ask the groups to help distribute. Flyers "If you want to stop that's our business". Radio stations encouraged to contact GSO for MP3 of the PSAs.

Neesa Area 49: We don't write rebuttal articles, we put out correct information. We can talk about AA directly if we do it right (just tell own story, don't "represent" AA).

Tony Area 50: In WNY the intergroups are very strong, outdate the Area. Have a literature rack at the largest liquor store in Buffalo, at their request. (The owner was affected by the phone calls he got from wives and children of alcoholics, begging him not to sell to them.) Sent info to his former probation officer, who had been ignorant of what AA was. He once inspired a jail guard who was sitting in on the meeting he brought in.

Laurie Area 47: "cult, religious, fanatics" are the accusations. Google "AA Orange Papers". Know which pamphlets my meeting has and be able to

give the appropriate ones to somebody. Distribute appropriate ones to grocery stores, seedy motels, apartment complexes, state fair. Distribute meeting lists of only open meetings.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

Steve G Area 50: Traditions: unity, anonymity. Singleness of purpose vs. non-alcohol addictions. Making a presentation at a local hospital to the staff including nurses. AAWS pamphlets, 15-min video from AAWS. Leaving pamphlets at locations like campgrounds. Some have forms with checkboxes to get more info of a desired type.

Josh D Area 47: Professionals' misconceptions and different approach: AA is old, not current research. Professional approach doesn't include admitting helplessness. Assumes the client has the ability to heal themselves. Cognitive behavioral therapy worked for him to quit smoking and binge eating. Allows it can work for drinking for many people, just not for us. DSM-V has only one kind of substance abuse disorder.

Preston W Area 49: Traditions are vital. "What's AA's opinion on issue X?" Read the Workbook. Dress well when meeting professionals, be prompt. Don't speak for the whole fellowship. "What do you think of the disease concept?"

Treatment, "Problems other than alcohol"

Dave B Area 48: Pamphlet "Problems other than alcohol" was written by Bill W, 1958. Says singleness of purpose is necessary to avoid collapse of AA, and that "there is no possible way to make a non-alcoholic into an AA member."

Nadav Area 50: If a person is an addict, our question is only whether he is an alcoholic.

Pete B Area 47: Many who take meetings into treatment centers are not very experienced, give misinformation. Long form of 3rd Tradition limits to "alcoholism" not just desire to stop drinking. Crack and meth were major ten years ago, now it's mainly opiates. Many patients have no familiarity with AA so need to do PI; also CPC with the center's staff. Don't do harm, say nothing that would drive them away.

Round table reportbacks

Accessibility, Sally: large print materials at meetings, and reading glasses. Specific handicapped icons for flavors of access supported.

Archives, Wyatt: Found a meeting list from 1952.

CPC, Chrissie: keeping anonymity. A (paper) form with checkboxes for desired

pamphlets. Powerpoints from GSO for presentations. Packets to take to your own doctor.

Corrections, Brenda: Some jails don't allow meeting lists or BTG forms; some allow it to be added to personal property, given on release.

Grapevine, Mike: Once had lots of service positions removing staples and stitching together.

Treatment, Steve: Commitments are made by a group, and a representative from that group attends Treatment committee meetings.

Speaker meetings work better than discussion for maintaining focus. GSO Workbook is helpful.

Website: no roundtables.