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A.A. Tradition and the Internet

Excerpts from A.A. Guidelines M-18 Internet.

We observe all A.A.'s principles and Traditions on A.A. public media such as the Internet. Anonymity—As anonymity is the “spiritual foundation of all our Traditions,” we practice anonymity on public websites at all times.

In 2013, the General Service Conference affirmed that “the Internet, social media, and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the short form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: ‘...at the level of press, radio, and films.’”

As Bill W. wrote: “At this altitude [public], anonymi-

ty—100 percent anonymity – was the only possible answer. Here, principles would have to come before personalities without exception.”

In simplest form, this means that A.A.s do not identify themselves as A.A. members using their full names and/or full-face photos.

A 63rd General Service Conference Advisory Action affirmed that the Internet, social media and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: “...at the level of press, radio, and films.”

Attraction not promotion—As our co-founder, Bill W., wrote: “Public information takes many forms – the simplest is outside a meeting place that says ‘A.A. meeting tonight listing in local phone directories, distribution of A.A. literature, and radio and television shows using sophisticated media techniques. Whatever the form, it comes down to one drunk carrying the message to another drunk,’ whether through personal contact or through the use of third parties and the media.

GUARDING ANONYMITY ONLINE

Continued on page 2

A.A. Comes to East Central Illinois

A group from Tuscola, Illinois first contacted the G.S.O. via a letter dated April 3, 1948. The letter from Arthur B. M. reads:

This is to advise you that on March 29, 1948 we organized Tuscola Group of A.A. and the undersigned was chosen secretary until

July 1st.

There are eight members. We have been meeting with the Decatur (Ill.) Group and it was suggested that we could, no doubt, accomplish more as a separate group. We however, intent to continue meeting with the Deca-

tur Group in addition to our own Monday night meetings until such time when our full time is required here.

Continued on page 4

Big Book Trivia

FEBRUARY Answers:

The original form of the preamble is located on bottom of page xiii and top of page xiv.

Extra Credit: Bill’ states “Of alcoholics who came to A.A. and really tried 50% got sober at once and remained that way” is on page XX

MARCH TRIVIA :

What was the name of the 1936 Dale Carnegie book did Bill used to model the wording for the 10th Step HINT: It has a chapter titled “If You Are Wrong, Admit It.”

Extra Credit: What was the name of the 1931 Richard Peabody book that Bill bor-

rowed the phrase “Half measures availed us nothing.”

Little Know Fact:

The Big Book was originally edited by Dr. Tom Uzzell, a professor at New York University before printing the final text in 1939.

Ace-Full-Seven-Eleven is the lost story from the Big Book. It was written and distributed with the early drafts but was never printed in the final publication

A.A. Tradition and the Internet

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GUARDING ANONYMITY ONLINE

Modern communication in A.A. is flowing from one alcoholic to another in ways that are high-tech, relatively open-ended and evolving quickly. Protecting anonymity is a major concern for members, who are accessing the Internet in ever growing numbers.

When we use digital media, we are responsible for our own anonymity and that of others. When we post, text, or blog, we should assume that we are publishing at the public level. When we break our anonymity in these forums, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others.

GENERAL SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES

Facebook and other social networking websites are public in nature. Though users create accounts and utilize usernames and passwords, once on the

site, it is a public medium where A.A. members and non- A.As mingle. As long as individuals do not identify themselves as A.A. members, there is no conflict of interest. However, someone using their full name and/ or a likeness, such as a full-face photograph, would be contrary to the spirit of the Eleventh Tradition, which states in the Long Form that, “... our [last] names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed or publicly printed.” Experience suggests that it is in keeping with the Eleventh Tradition not to disclose A.A. membership on social networking sites as well as on any other website, blog, electronic bulletin board, etc., that is not composed solely of A.A. members and not password protected, or is accessible to the public. Websites social networking offer individuals the chance to post a great deal of personal information about themselves

(and others). Our experience suggests that some A.A. members do not post anything that is “A.A. jargon” on their personal profiles and in “status updates,” while others feel it is alright to do so as long as A.A. or Alcoholics Anonymous specifically is not mentioned. These websites often allow users to create social networking “groups” and the ability to invite others to “events” for like-minded individuals. Some A.A.s have chosen to create A.A.-related groups. Since this is a relatively new medium, A.A. members are frequently “learning as they go,” and technology and applications change practically on a daily basis.

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The full document is available from AAWS at

http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/mg-18_internet.pdf

Biography: "Student Of Life"

Jane D. , Philadelphia
(p. 319 in 4th edition.)

I was born in September 1965 in Urbana, Illinois on the campus of the University of Illinois; both my parents were grad students there. After they graduated, we moved to the Philadelphia area for my dad's new job with a large chemical company – he stayed with that company until he retired, so I never moved from, (and I still live in), the Philadelphia area. When I entered first grade my mother went to work in a cancer research laboratory for eleven years, then she taught high school chemistry for ten years before retiring early at age 55. My parents are still married; as of this writing in November 2007, they have been married for 45 years.

I have one younger sister who is very intelligent and is an Ivy League graduate. She opted for Library Science and is currently the director of the design library at a large state university. She shows absolutely no signs of alcoholism and neither do my parents. We were a stable, gentle household growing up and while we weren't wealthy, there were never any financial problems or arguments. Come to think of it, there were very few arguments at all. My parents were very mature, intelligent people and just didn't have time for nonsense or non-value added behavior.

At age fourteen I was assaulted in the woods behind my parent's house by a stranger who followed me home from a summer camp I attended. I think this incident and my subsequent non-handling of it accelerated my drinking once I started to drink, which wasn't until college and that's where my Big Book story picks up. I believe I would have been an alcoholic either way, but the anger and humiliation that I buried and pretended did not exist were so much easier to keep buried with alcohol – oh what a relief it is!!! When I got sober, those emotions came exploding to the surface, but that's another part of my story.

My Big Book story covers the eight years of my drinking, but I would like to mention that for grad school I too attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (where my parents met and I was born) and that the re-runs I used to love to watch while drinking were Columbo re-runs. Only today did I finally discard those videotapes. Mike, the Hawaiian sales rep who took me to my first three meetings, is still sober today and has a lovely wife and two adorable daughters.

After getting sober in December 1991, I still struggled a bit on the employment angle, but I always made enough money to live on my own and get by, and even save a little sometimes. Finally in 1995 I got a job with the employer whom, (as of this writing at least), I am still employed

and my career has really taken off. I wrote my story in 1998 and, as I promised in my story, I did buy a house in 1999, and in 2001 I married the man I referenced in my story. In January 2007 my husband and I adopted a baby girl from China who has further rocked my world (and his!) into beyond my wildest dreams.

When I first learned that my story was selected for the 4th edition, I was so excited that I told the members of two of my meetings, but I didn't go beyond that. Today I don't usually publicize or tell anyone that I am the Student of Life, but some people have come up to me after I tell my story in a meeting because they figured it out, which always amazes me. It's not a secret and it's not something I hide, but it's not something I just tell unless the conversation is going that direction (and it usually isn't). I view having my story published as an amazing gift from my Higher Power, but it certainly doesn't make me anyone special. On the contrary, the editors were looking to carry a message that would resonate with as many alcoholics as possible and therefore my story must be quite basic – a garden-variety drunk, that's me. I just told it well, that's all.

Continued on page 4

"When I got sober, those emotions came exploding to the surface, but that's another part of my story."

A Student of Life Continued...

I still attend meetings and I am a member of an on-line women's topic group. I do not have any sponsees right now, but I do have a sponsor whom I see usually once a week. I subscribe to and read the Grapevine and the Daily Reflections book. I have gained so much and come so far that I always keep my recovery in the forefront

of my mind. The program taught me how to deal with the assault I suffered at 14 and other various 'Life on Life's terms' situations and experiences and for that I am eternally grateful. For me, although there are plenty of distractions (good and bad), it's always about a drink, and as long as I remember that, I'll remember to

not pick up that first one.

Jane D. November 5, 2007

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http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_bigbook_personalstories_partII.pdf

"We are aware that as a group we are only a few days old. However the daddy of our group is now 2 years 7 months and 10 days..."

A.A. Comes to East Central Illinois

Continued from page 1

We would like to have a list of the literature available and prices; also price of the Big A.A. book for one or more.

We are aware that as a group we are only a few days old. However, the daddy of our group is now 2 years 7 months and 10 days and he has missed very few meetings in Decatur during that time. Might add that the others of our group are as follows: two- one year; one 8 mo; one 10 mo; one 6 mo; one 4 mo; and one 1 mo.

Monticello an announced in the Church News Section on page 8

of the October 31, 1957 Piatt County Journal that on Wednesday Nov 6 Bob Stevenson from Bloomington would talk on Alcoholics Anonymous.

By 1958 Monticello has a membership of 5 members.

Beginning in 1960 Monticello was running an ad in the Piatt County Journal Special Notices for Alcoholics Anonymous PO Box 362.

By December 1960 the were also listing a local answering service phone number.

The *Monticello Group* (currently the *Monticello Thursday Nite Group* #104802) first contacted the G.S.O. on Septem-

ber 6, 1962 via a group information form. The form has the Bement Group (Bement was listed as a group with GSO for only 1961 ~ 62). The group of 4 met on Thursdays at 8:00pm at the Presbyterian Church. Eugene W.G. was listed as the group's secretary and L.M. S. was listed as the group's G.S.R.

Through the 60's and into the early 70's Monticello showed a membership of 5 ~ 8.

Next month Charleston.

Martin B Champaign, IL

Answering Service Needs Volunteers



FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE 24 Hours 7 Days a Week call (217) 373-4200

These are important words to anyone seeking help. The responsibility is to insure that there are names on file with the answering service to respond when the call for help comes.

"I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help I want the hand of A.A. always to be there and for that I am responsible."

This is an opportunity to be involved in the very heart of A.A. Twelfth Step Work.

Co-Chair for the Treatment Center Committee:

The Co-Chair would assist in seeing that there are people to available to assist at A.A. orientations to spread the message of how and to assist in bridging from treatment to the outside world.

To learn about service opportunities with contact any District Chair or use the web sites contact page <http://aa-eci.org/contact/>

March Speakers

- Jerry M. is the SWAT Speaker March 1
- Paula (Danville) is Tuesday's Women's Step Study Mtg. Speaker March 3
- Four Square Church Monticello AA and Alanon Speakers 5:00 pm March 7
- Cope C. is Cellar Dwellers March 9
- Laura W. is H.O.W. speaker March 26.

Announcements

New Meeting in Urbana:

Many Paths
 Thursdays, 6-7 pm
 309 W Green St, Urbana
 (Unitarian Universalist Church)
 Open Meeting - Lead Format
 Many Paths has a more secular format than traditional AA meetings in order to serve the needs of those who identify as agnostic, atheist, freethinker, and for individuals sorting out their

personal spiritual beliefs or non--beliefs. We encourage a spirit of inclusiveness, tolerance and respect so that each one of us can find a path to sobriety within the fellowship of AA. All are welcome.

Notes from the Editor: I'm ready for spring. My apologies for the delay in last months newsletter. Things were printed by February 2 put there was a delay in the delivery from the printer. The format of the newsletter is starting to come together. There will be three primary sections, A) Guidelines from GSO B) A Story and C) A bit of history. Along with that the tried and true Big Book Trivia and District Highlights. I need to start asking GSR's to share your speakers and dates with the Newsletter and EVERYONE needs to start dropping a note as to when their anniversary is. A.A. is a program of hope and nothing shares hope better than events, speakers meetings and seeing anniversary dates. So take a couple minutes a month and drop newsletter@aa-eci.org a note so that they can be shared with the entire East Central Illinois A.A. Community

Martin B. Newsletter Editor

District Highlights

At the District Business Meeting February 15 ...

Alternate DCM Mike H. reported that DCM Mona Lee H.'s health issues will prevent her from attending the next Area Assembly, March 28, in Mt. Vernon. He will attend in her place and will split his travel budget with any committee chair who also wishes to attend the Assembly.

Because of a personal commitment next March 15, the scheduled date of the next business, it was decided by consensus to reschedule the meeting for March 22.

Treasurer's Report

Alternate DCM Mike G presented the Treasurer's report in Chad's absence. Last month's expenses totaled \$550.89; the Corrections Committee spent \$999.45 for corrections literature (from the Corrections Literature fund) and the district received as income \$275 in group donations. The result was a balance \$3,901.55. Less a Prudent of \$3,100 and the Corrections Literature Fund of \$300.31, the District was left with working cash of \$501.24

Committee Reports

Antonia G. and Reuben L. were appointed co-chairs of the Answering Service Committee.

Treatment Centers Committee Chair Don D. reported that he will be out state from May through August and will need someone to replace him as Committee Chair. Anyone interested should contact him and Alternate DCM Mike G.

New Business

The 2015 budget was discussed, but because no specific requests were submitted prior to the meeting, voting on budget amounts was tabled until next month.

The next district meeting will be Sunday, March 22 at 2 pm.

District 12 Officers and Committee Chairs

DCM	Mona Lee H. (dcm@aa-eci.org)	VACANT Grapevine	(grapevine@aa-eci.org)
Alt. DCM	Michael G. (alt-dcm@aa-eci.org)	PI-CPC	Russ S. (picpc@aa-eci.org)
Secretary	Katrina R. (secretary@aa-eci.org)	Website	Rosemary T. (webmaster@aa-eci.org)
Treasurer	Chad S. (treasurer@aa-eci.org)	Archives	Mike W. (archives@aa-eci.org)
Corrections	Mike K. (corrections@aa-eci.org)		
Treatment Facilities	Don D. & Joe M. (treatment-centers@aa-eci.org)		District 12 holds its meetings on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 2pm in the New Fellowship Corner at 1714 Springfield Ave, Champaign.
Meeting List	Liza W. & Mona M. (meeting-list@aa-eci.org)		If you would like to submit something for publication, or just send comments or questions to the Committee, please email newsletter@aa-eci.org . Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.
Answering Service	Antonia D. and Reuben L. (answering-service@aa-eci.org)		
Newsletter	Martin B (newsletter@aa-eci.org)		Volunteer opportunities available for ANSWERING SERVICE , GRAPEVINE Chair, Treatment Center Co-Chair and gathering