

AGENDA ITEM E

Consider revisions to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" which expand content on Traditions Eleven and Twelve and add information related to safety in A.A.

For our reference:

Tradition Eleven – "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films."

Tradition Twelve – "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

Page 5

Add the following paragraph at the end of the opening section, above Anonymity on a person-to-person basis.

The word "anonymous" in our name is meant to provide as much privacy as an individual may desire regarding membership in AA.

Page 7

Add the following section after the section "Anonymity at the public level."

The spiritual significance of anonymity

In stressing the equality of all AA members - and unity in the common Bond of their recovery from alcoholism - anonymity serves as the spiritual foundation of the Fellowship. Back in 1948, Bill W., our co-founder, wrote: "One may say that anonymity is the spiritual base, the sure key to all the rest of our Traditions." It has come to stand for prudence and, most importantly, for self-effacement. True consideration for the newcomer if he desires to be nameless; vital protection against misuse of the name Alcoholics Anonymous at the public level; and to each of us a constant reminder that principles come before personal interest -such is the wide scope of this all-embracing principle. In it we see the Cornerstone of our security as a movement; at a deeper spiritual level and points us to still greater self-renunciation.

Page 11

Add the following paragraph and bullet points at the end of "Some questions and answers about anonymity," above "Facts about anonymity in AA."

Spot check inventory

Some additional questions that can be helpful in evaluating whether our actions may or may not be in conflict with the principles of humility and sacrifice that underlie our anonymity traditions.

Is my posting about the message or the messenger?

Am I carrying the AA message in the hopes of helping someone else, or am I simply "shouting from the rooftops"?

Am I taking my story and affiliating it was political causes?

Am I being extra cautious about not identifying other AA members in photographs or statements?

Am I avoiding the temptation to incite controversy through caustic argument or bullying others who may disagree with me?

Am I providing helpful information about AA for those who may need our help?

AGENDA ITEM F

Consider revisions to the pamphlet "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous" which updates language, contact information on the prevalence and severity of alcoholism and adds information related to safety in A.A.

Omit all on page 5 and replace with 3 new paragraphs.

For many years alcoholism has been recognized as a highly prevalent and disabling health problem, one that affects far more than just the alcoholic alone. Family, friends, others are hurt by its effects – in the home, on the job, on our highways and roads. Alcoholism costs lives, as well as costing communities millions of dollars. So, whether or not you ever become an alcoholic yourself, alcoholism still can have a devastating impact on your life.

We in A.A. have learned a great deal about alcoholism – how to identify and arrest it,, and how to live a life in recovery. But so far, no one has discovered a way to prevent it; it is still unknown just why some drinkers turn into alcoholics and others do not. Many doctors and scientists in the field have studied this question but have not been able to determine a definitive cause (or causes) of alcoholism.

For that reason, we in A.A. concentrate on helping those who are already alcoholics, those who may have a desire to stop drinking, so that they can begin to recover and to learn how to live a normal, happy life without alcohol.

New text on Safety added on page 9 at the end of the section "What are A.A. meetings?"

Our groups endeavor to provide a safe meeting place for all attendees and encourage a secure and welcoming environment in which our meetings can take place. The formation and operation of an A.A. group resides with the group conscience. Our common suffering as alcoholics and our common solution in A.A. transcend most issues and help us to create as safe an environment as possible to carry A.A.'s message of hope and recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic.

Page 5

Alcoholism is recognized as a major health problem. In the US, it is the third greatest killer, after heart disease and cancer - and it does not damage alcoholics alone. Others are hurt by its effects - in the home, on the job, on the highway. Alcoholism costs the community millions of dollars every year. So whether or not you ever become an alcoholic yourself, alcoholism still can have an impact on your life

We have learned a great deal about how to identify an arrest alcoholism. But so far no one has discovered a way to prevent it, because nobody knows exactly why some drinkers turn into alcoholics. Doctors and scientists in the field have not agreed on the cause (or causes) of alcoholism.

For that reason, AA concentrates on helping those who are already alcoholics, so that they can stop drinking and learn how to live a normal, happy life without alcohol.

To be replaced with:

For many years, alcoholism has been recognized as a highly prevalent and disabling health problem, one of the effects far more than just the alcoholic alone. Family, friends, others are hurt by its effects - in the home, on the job, on our highways and Roads. Alcoholism costs lives, as well as costing communities millions of dollars. So, whether or not you ever become an alcoholic yourself, alcoholism still can have a devastating impact on your life.

We in AA have learned a great deal about alcoholism - how to identify an arrested, and how to live a life in recovery. But so far, no one has discovered a way to prevent; it is still unknown just why some drinkers turn into alcoholics and others do not. Many doctors and scientists in the field of study this question but have not been able to determine a definitive cause (or causes) of alcoholism.

For that reason, we in A.A. concentrate on helping those who are already alcoholics, those who may have a desire to stop drinking, so that they can begin to recover and to learn how to live a normal, happy life without alcohol.

Page 9:

New text on safety added on page 9 at the end of the section "What are AA meetings?"

Our group's Endeavor to provide a safe meeting place for all attendees and encourage a secure and welcoming environment in which our meetings can take place. The formation and operation of an AA group resides with the group conscience. Our common suffering as alcoholics and our common solution in AA transcend most issues and help us to create a safe environment as possible to carry AA's message of Hope and Recovery to the still suffering alcoholic.

Page 10

5. AA does not run any hospitals, wards, or sanitariums or provide nursing services.

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6. AA is not connected with any other organization. But AA does cooperate with organizations that fight alcoholism. Some members work for such organizations - but on their own - not as representatives of AA.

6. AA is not affiliated with any other organization. But AA does cooperate with organizations that are interested in recovery. Some members work for such organizations - but on their own - not as representatives of AA.

Page 11:

2. If you do not find an AA listing in your phone book, write to:

General Service Office
Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

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General Service Office
Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
www.aa.org

Page 12:

5. The AA Grapevine (monthly magazine) may be obtained from your local AA office or by writing for information to:

Box 1980
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

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Box 1980
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
www.aagrapevine.org