ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

The True from the False

National Association of Drug Court Professionals

July 15, 2019

Cooperation Between A.A. and Drug Courts
Christine Carpenter

Non-alcoholic Class A trustee serving on the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous

“Alcoholics Anonymous as a non-professional resource for drug and alcohol court professionals for those who may need help with a Drinking problem”.
Racy J.
A.A. Member
General Service Office – Public Information Coordinator
A.A.‘s Twelve Traditions

A.A. is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

- The 12 Steps help repair our own lives and strive to keep members mindful of behaviors that may lead one back to a drink.
- The 12 Traditions are what keep the A.A. fellowship united.
A.A. Unity

A.A.’s Twelve Traditions ensure unity and act as a guide for members, groups, and the Fellowship as a whole.
Our Experience, Strength & Hope

A.A. began in 1935 – with one alcoholic, Bill W., talking to another alcoholic, Dr. Bob S.

- Admitting powerlessness of alcohol. Self-Diagnosed program (A.A. does not diagnose alcoholism)
- Alcoholics helping alcoholics recover.
- Identification of not being able to “take it or leave alcohol.”
- A.A. is Voluntary.
- No money exchanged for recovery.
- Only mention of sober time in A.A. literature is 24 Hours. We just have to stay sober “today.”
A.A. Program of Action

• A way to stop drinking and stay stopped
• A.A.’s suggested Twelve Steps are the program of recovery through action.
• Admit the problem
• Need help that is bigger than just me “figuring it out”
• Get honest about what has happened and how alcohol has played a part.
• Change actions continue to review our behavior with the help of other alcoholics in recovery
• Pass on our recovery to another alcoholic.
A.A.’s Spirit of Service

A.A. members help other alcoholics in order to help themselves continue to recover.

“Pass It On...”
Singleness of Purpose

• A.A.’s focus is on recovery from alcoholism
• Anyone may observe open meetings
• Closed meetings are for those with a drinking problem
• Anyone with a desire to stop drinking may become an A.A. member
• A.A. members bring meetings into correctional, treatment facilities, and drug court settings.
Singleness of Purpose...

Problems other than alcohol

by Bill W.,
co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous
What Does A.A. Do?

- A.A. offers a Twelve Step program of recovery
- Groups put on A.A. meetings
- A.A. members share their experience
- Local committees carry the A.A. message
What Does A.A. Not Do?

- Solicit members
- Make medical diagnoses
- Provide hospitalization or drugs
- Keep attendance records/case histories
- Offer religious services
- Address prevention, treatment, advocacy or legislation
• A.A. Does Not Require That you believe anything

• A.A. is not affiliated with any religion

• A.A. members as individuals may choose to practice the religion of their choice in their own personal lives.

• Some A.A. members choose the A.A. group as a “Higher Power”

• It can be helpful to rely on something bigger than oneself. The idea of a “Higher Power” leaves the hoop wide open. Some A.A.s call their Higher Power “God.”

• The experience is wide in what members define as a power greater than themselves.

• Some A.A. members are atheists or agnostics.
From a Professional Non A.A. "Hat"

- First Amendment Issues

- Establishment Clause

  - Courts have consistently held requiring A.A. participation is unconstitutional.
Proof of Attendance at A.A. Meetings

Sometimes a referral source asks for proof of attendance at A.A. meetings.

- Groups cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group’s involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.

- Some groups with the consent of the prospective member, have an A.A. member acknowledge attendance on a slip that has been furnished by the referral source. The referred person is responsible for returning the proof of attendance.
“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”

- At the personal level, anonymity provides protection for all members from identification as alcoholics, a safeguard often of special importance to newcomers.

- Anonymity is not a cloak for criminal behavior.

- A.A. and the Law
How Can You Cooperate with A.A. to Help problem drinkers?
A.A.W.S.
“Meeting Guide” App

Menu
- Meetings
- Friday
- Any Time
- Any Type
- New York, NY
- News
- Contacts

Contacts
Your local AA service organizations are the best source of meeting information for your area. They can answer questions about specific meeting listings, and fix issues with the data.

New York Inter-Group
New York, NY, USA
Connected

(212) 647-1680
info@nyintergroup.org
nyintergroup.org

Download on the App Store
Android App on Google Play
Communication is the key

We thank you for your kind attention!

www.aa.org

Publicinfo@aa.org