

ORAL HISTORY GUIDELINES AND FORMS

Oral History of: _____

Recorded: ____/____/____

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR TAPING MEMBERS FOR ARCHIVES FILES

1. The tape cassettes are an hour's length, so you should probably allow 2 hours for taping. Try to arrange for a location without distraction (perhaps someone's home), and free of outside noise. Since we prefer standard-bias tapes and tapes with screws so they can be disassembled and spliced if necessary, a tape should accompany this document.
2. Before you begin taping, explain that our primary interest is in A.A.'s role in the story. The emphasis is on sobriety, rather than drinking. Perhaps the member can begin his/her story with his/her initial contact with the program. You may wish to review the attachment "Oral History—Items of Particular Interest" with them before starting the interview, or give them a copy well in advance.
3. Also emphasize the CONFIDENTIAL nature of these tapes. The material is only used to give historians or other serious researchers a more accurate and thorough understanding of our past.
4. Please begin the tape by identifying yourself (last name optional) and giving the date of taping. Then introduce the member.
5. The member may prefer to simply reminisce, but if they prefer to answer your questions, go through the "items of particular interest."
6. Above all, we want this to be a comfortable, rewarding experience for everyone involved. If the member doesn't want to talk for the full hour, we'll be happy with one taped side (30 minutes).

Bob McK., Archivist, NE Ohio General Service

Northeast Ohio General Service has my permission to use this tape, and any transcripts that may be made from it, in any manner consistent with the AA Traditions and good archival practice.

Signed: _____

On: _____

Other persons you may wish to interview are:

We welcome your suggestions for changing this procedure!

Oral History—Items of Particular Interest

How did you yourself get to A.A.? Where did you hear about it?

Did you have a sponsor? If so, how did it help you as a newcomer?

What contributions did you make to the Fellowship growth –and don' t be unnecessarily modest?

When was A.A. started in your town or area? Where were meetings held (homes, churches)?

By whom? Were there early members who especially contributed to the growth and success of the group?

How were they started: i.e. offshoot of the parent group, quarrel or split with first or main group, one person starting the group?

What was A.A. like in the early days in your area?

How did you contact new members? How was 12th Step work done?

Did you seek cooperation of local community and professional agencies: ministers, doctors, law enforcement agencies?

Who were the founders and group officers of the early groups?

How often were meetings held, what kind of meeting format was used? (Speakers, open meetings, closed discussion, any public meetings held?)

Were there any special problems that arose during the early years - growing pains, etc.?

What was the group' s original name did it change? If so when? More than one change of name? What is the present name of the group?

Do you know how the community received the first group when it was started?

Do you think your group or groups has/have had influence in your community? Has attitude of your local professional people, particularly towards alcoholism, been changed by contact with the local members?

Conferences or Conventions held? When started, how often held, well attended?

When did clubhouses (if you have one) get started, and under what circumstances? Any problems developed? How solved?

Was there any opposition to A.A. or Intergroup feuds in your area—would you elaborate?

Is there an Intergroup or Central Office in your area or community? Do you know when it was started? How? Any problems?

Do you celebrate anniversaries, individual and group? How?

Is there Al-Anon in your community? Good relations? Alateen? Good relations?

Have you experienced growth in your area? Who approaches A.A. today: more young people, women, minorities? Are all welcome? Any special problems?

"Outside Agency" in your area? What is your relationship with it? Many referrals? Any problems with these?

Do you participate in state or regional get-togethers: conventions, conferences, forums, etc.?

How has A.A. changed, if it has, since you first encountered it?

How was General Service perceived? Any contact with it? Problems with it.

For those active in General Service:

What problems has your district or area faced? What successes?

How were relations between General Service and the groups or old-timers? With the Central/Intergroup Offices?

For Past Delegates:

What were the "hot issues" during your Conferences?

Any personality clashes among Conference members?

What events that occurred were you most grateful about during your term?

Specific Questions for this person:

