

# GROUP HISTORY ARCHIVES HANDOUT

## Aide – memoire

Suggestions for creating a group history. This can be an individual or group project.

Groups are fundamental to the Fellowship, knowing the beginnings and growth of individual AA groups is an integral bedrock of the Fellowship.

I am looking for individual group histories. Each group has its own unique experiences in fulfilling our primary purpose. Below are a number of aspects of group life which could be considered in compiling a group history.

You may find that information on any/all of these has been lost but as in all AA activity we are not looking for perfection, all that you are invited to do is do your best with what you and others know, from as far back as you can to the present.

Experience tends to show that there is considerable interest in later years concerning the emergence and nature of such matters as:-

- ❖ Why did the meeting begin – rate of growth/demise, average numbers attending, home group members/others?
- ❖ The place day and time of meeting?
- ❖ The form the group took – how did this come about? What AA literature was used - Preamble, Promises, Traditions? Did the format change? What brought about change? Did new groups come from the original group? Were AA birthdays celebrated?
- ❖ Was the group financially viable? How did the group make financial decisions?
- ❖ What about individuals/characters/group force? The balance of members' sobriety length?
- ❖ Conscience meetings, rotation of service positions, were there enough/too many home group members'? How were issues or problems resolved?
- ❖ Group activity – Sponsors in group, 12 steppers, telephone responders, PI activity were members encouraged into service? Intergroup officers? Region officers?

Any documentation – Crib sheets, account books GSR notebooks, secretary/chair notes apologies, business and shares.

The above mainly applies to groups and meetings. I would also like to have input from individuals – long timers or not so long timers – their journey as foot soldiers - reflections of doing service this could be telephones, prisons service, public information or any other service opportunities within groups.

Share your experiences, what did you get out of doing service? Any amusing or not so amusing incidents? These can be completely anonymous but it would be good to have at least a first name and initial.

Please post these on your website or if you prefer email them to me, or get them to me via meetings.

All the stories and data you give me will be kept according to the Traditions, code of anonymity and the practices and procedures of AA archivists. These procedures are there to protect you and your family now and in the future.

I wish you well in your endeavours.

Yours in Fellowship, Miriam T.