

Getaway Weekend Quick Update (Full Update Next Month)

I took the following questions to the DCM breakout group – this was an open forum with roughly 25 DCM's representing much of western PA, and our area delegate and a few past delegates. While any one person's opinion can be easily ignored, when taken as a group like this it carries far more weight.

Question: Are we breaking traditions by giving each group a potential allowance of \$50 for literature if they feel they cannot afford it?

Answer: No. This was unanimously agreed upon after discussion. There was some potential issue with us giving money to the groups – we cannot do that. But if we allow \$50 worth of literature that the district purchases to be given to a group, that benefits the alcoholic still suffering who shows up at that group and wants help in the form of a big book. IDEALLY the group would donate the books from their members, and there was agreement (myself included) that if a group cannot afford to buy books by raising a collection of their members, it is not really a group, and is just a loose meeting.

Question: What should the district do with any extra funds?

Answer: Hold more service workshops. The general consensus was that the district's purpose is primarily to educate the GSR's and other service minded AA's in a district, and to provide certain services that affect all AA's in a district, like meeting lists. The funds that the district holds are NOT to be used for social activities, period. (That was unanimous). More workshops that focus not on bringing in the drunk off the street or even the occasional meeting-maker, but focus on those who want to be more involved and are looking to learn more about how to do that. HEAVILY suggested: an anonymity workshop. The district CANNOT send money to area or GSO. (That was unanimous)

Quick Anonymity Updates:

1. Do not post on facebook (etc) anything that COULD REASONABLY link you to AA. This includes:
 - a. your sobriety anniversary
 - b. congrats on other peoples sobriety anniversary
 - c. quotes from the big book, 12x12, hazelden, etc...
 - d. "im so grateful I'm not in the woods anymore since I've been in recovery..."
2. Just because you don't write "AA" does NOT make it ok. We are all so quick to be lawyers and say "Oh, I didn't say AA so its ok..." ... this is NOT about being technically correct or not, this is about the spirit of the tradition and keeping AA alive, so if there is even a reasonable chance that someone with half a brain will understand you are in AA, don't do it.
3. The reason is NOT just to protect your anonymity – you have the right to reveal your AA membership as you please in private, but it is a direct violation of the 11th tradition to do so in public, and the internet is PUBLIC. So by posting your happy 1 year or yay I'm sober and not in the woods, you become the public face of AA. Then, when you post a lovely piece about how your religion says this group is going to hell, or about how you believe we should all vote for this idiot versus this other idiot, all of a sudden AA is associated with religions, politics, etc. And if that happens, AA falls. If any of this offended you, this is NOT public, this is private, and I am an alcoholic, so of course it wasn't my fault.

Most important thing ever: update on hand sanitizer:

We can get economy sized bottles of hand sanitizer for ~\$25/bottle on amazon. I suggest we vote on approving the purchasing of these for groups that want them. 😊