

SUGGESTIONS FOR USING GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA AS TOOLS IN COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (C.P.C.) SERVICE

This service piece shares ideas regarding how the magazines Grapevine and La Viña might be used as supplementary tools to carry the A.A. message to professionals. Experiences submitted by committees using these tools will be gratefully incorporated into this service piece in the future.

The following suggestions were compiled from the shared experience of C.P.C. committees:

- Members doing C.P.C. work will want to become familiar with A.A. Grapevine and La Viña and all of the print and digital resources available for professionals.
- Include copies of Grapevine and La Viña in the literature exhibits at professional events.
- Mention AAGRAPEVINE.ORG in correspondence and conversations with professionals.
- There are free resources on the Grapevine website specifically for professionals at www.aagrapevine.org/topic/professionals.
- Include a copy of Grapevine or La Viña along with A.A. Literature you share with professionals.
- Committees may want to order bulk subscriptions of Grapevine and La Viña (there is a bulk discount) or 30-packs of back issues (also available at discount prices). For more information, contact customerservice@aagrapevine.org.
- Committees and groups can supply professionals with a gift subscription.
- Utilize the Spring 2011 *About A.A.* issue that focuses on Grapevine in meetings with professionals, and as an enclosure, along with a copy of Grapevine/La Viña, in correspondence (past issues of *About A.A.* can be downloaded from www.aa.org.)

Professionals have shared a variety of ways they utilize Grapevine or La Viña:

- A veteran addiction counselor and social worker reports, “Instead of giving a copy to my client, I asked them to find one for themselves and to bring back a copy for me. I knew that most active alcoholics wouldn’t read it if I gave it to them in their packet – too much pushing. But if I gave them an assignment to go to a meeting and specifically find Grapevine or La Viña they would do it and then read it. This usually worked and I had the bonus of a copy to hand out, too. Grapevine and La Viña never grow old or out of date.”
- A former judge shares, “I have used Grapevine and La Viña for explaining to justice system staff about A.A. I suggest that jail staff and other justice system personnel read the ‘Meeting in Print’ to gain a better understanding of the universality of alcohol problems and how A.A. can help. I left my older copies at the local jail in the waiting room for family members to read while waiting for visitation time. In summary, Grapevine and La Viña are good ambassadors for the Fellowship, both professionally and in other settings.”
- A sitting judge says, “I keep extra copies of Grapevine in my chambers and in my courtroom. I give them a copy of whatever one comes to hand, whatever one happens to be closest, and I say ‘I want you to take this Grapevine home and I want you to read it. And I want you to write me an essay about the one story in there that really touched your heart.’” The judge reports that a woman took the Grapevine home and returned with her essay, “It was very cathartic ... It helped her to reflect and to see she was not alone. Ultimately, she didn’t go to jail, she read Grapevine; she’s still sober and she’s doing much better now.”

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