

MARKINGS

c/o G.S.O.
470 PARK AVENUE SOUTH
NEW YORK, NY 10016

YOUR ARCHIVES INTERCHANGE

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From Our Past . . .

VANCOUVER CHAPTER ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Constitution and By-laws

1. NAME

The name of the Chapter shall be Vancouver Chapter, Alcoholics Anonymous.

2. OFFICERS

The Officers of this Chapter shall consist of:

A President

A Secretary - Treasurer

An Advisory Committee of Three Active Members

The President shall be elected by vote and shall serve office for a term of one (1) year. He may be re-elected for a further term.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by vote and shall serve office for a term of one (1) year. He may be re-elected for a further term.

The Advisory Committee shall be elected each six (6) months on and from the date of the Presidential election. Members of the Advisory Committee will not be permitted to succeed themselves.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE BODY

The above duly elected members shall form the Administrative Body.

4. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any alcoholic who admits a sincere desire to be freed from alcoholism.

5. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS

The membership shall consist of three groups, namely:

Novice Qualified Active

Novice:

A member on first joining Alcoholics Anonymous shall be considered a novice during the elapsed time of three (3) consecutive meetings including his first meeting, who can truthfully declare that during this time, he has not partaken of any intoxicating beverage. He shall be required to attend one-half hour before regular meeting time, on each of the above three (3) meetings, accompanied by his sponsor and two other active members appointed by the President. A novice will have neither voice nor vote during the regular meetings.

Qualified:

A qualified member shall be one who has successfully passed his test as a novice and shall remain Qualified for another four regular meetings not including his last meeting as a novice. A Qualified member shall have voice but no vote at the regular meetings. During this period should a Qualified member partake of alcoholic beverage, he will revert to the status of a novice.

Active:

An Active member shall be one who successfully passes as a qualified member and shall have all the rights and privileges of the Chapter, provided, however, that should he or she indulge in alcoholic beverage, at any time, he or she will revert to the status of a qualified member. The committing of a second offense will automatically revert the member to the status of a novice, and any subsequent offense will constitute sufficient grounds for having such a member's conduct discussed at an open meeting.

6. CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The membership as now constituted shall be classified as active members.

7. ROLL CALL

The Secretary-Treasurer shall call the roll at the opening of each meeting.

8. QUORUM

75% of the active members present at a meeting shall constitute a Quorum.

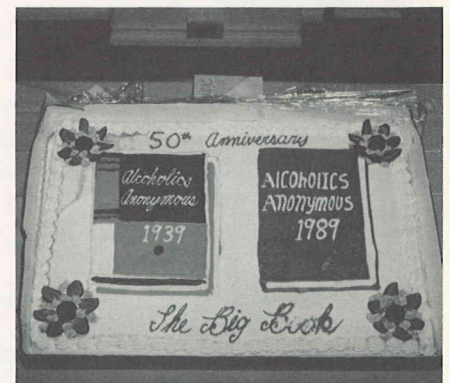
9. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Notice of Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be made by an active member orally at a meeting or by written notice. Such notice of Amendments to be made two weeks in advance of a regular weekly meeting.

Admendments must be sanctioned by a 75% majority of the active members present.

The above Constitution and By-Laws was duly submitted and approved at the regular weekly meeting of the Vancouver Chapter, Alcoholics Anonymous, held at Vancouver on the 27th day of April, 1945.

This is the way it was: Aren't you glad things change.



Washington Area Service Assembly
5/21/89 "50th Anniversary of B.B."
Submitted by Chad L.

On the Trail of our Herbert Spencer quote

"There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance—that principle is contempt prior to investigation."

Herbert Spencer
Page 570, Alcoholics Anonymous,
Third Edition

For many years our diligent members have searched for the source of this quote in Herbert Spencer's works. He was a prodigious writer . . . literally hundreds of books. So finding the specific reference was like the proverbial "needle in a haystack." Even the august New York Public Library threw up its hands when requested to help uncover the origins of this statement.

Tim M. from Sacramento got hold of an obsessive A.A. scholar person and turned him loose on the chase. That sleuth has found a book called "The Great Quotations" by George Seldes which lists the Spenser quote as coming from a text entitled *Principles of Biology*. What's more, a member, Bill H. from Little Rock found a book dealer with the two-volume set. *Principles of Biology* to sell. I think Bill has started to read the material in an effort to locate the exact page.

BLESS HIM!

**Frank M.
Archivist G.S.O.**

Please Note . . .

. . . with the next issue of Markings we plan to have a "Swapping Section". So please send along your list of white elephants and your "Wish List." Who knows, someone, somewhere out there might have just what you need for your collection. Give it a try.

DUTIES OF THE DISTRICT ARCHIVISTS.

From Charles B.,
West Virginia

- A.** To collect, organize, coordinate, suggest, communicate, preserve and exhibit all archival material in their home district.
- B.** To attend regularly their home districts G.S.R. meetings so that they may express their districts' will to the archives committee.
- C.** To attend the archives committee meeting at the annual state convention and at least one of the other 3 archives committee meetings held each year.
- D.** To forward promptly the original (preferably) or a copy of all archival material collected in their district to the state archivist. Promptly means within one month of receipt or sooner.
- E.** To assist the state archivist on any visit to their district.
- F.** To fulfill the same duties as the state archivist in their own district on many levels, especially in trying to interest others in work in the archives and in "carrying the message" in all our work.

Reprinted from the Vancouver
Grassroots Forum.

TAPING TIPS:

The following steps are suggested as preparation for recording "Old-timers" stories for our archives:

- 1.** Have a light extension cord available for use.
- 2.** If using batteries, be sure they are up. If there is any doubt, replace them!
- 3.** A method of cushioning the recorder is helpful in reducing motor noise in recordings.
- 4.** Have available a blank tape and a spare. (Good quality 90 minute cassettes, with recording tabs still intact, are recommended.)
- 5.** Set counter on zero, or have a watch available to time the recording.

- 6.** If switchable, insure recorder input is on microphone; not Line.
- 7.** Set recording level (volume control if not equipped with ALC). If recorder has ALC (Automatic Level Control), it will set its own level.
- 8.** Make a test recording with all controls set correctly; if satisfactory, return tape to Start, leaving all controls pre-set.
- 9.** Using Side 1 (or Side A), run the recorder for four seconds to run past the leader, then record the following information at the start of the tape:
 - a.** Person conducting recording.
 - b.** Person being recorded.
 - c.** Date, and location of the recording.
 - d.** Sobriety Data if available.
- 10.** Having completed the above suggestions, turn unit OFF without disturbing the controls. If the unit has a "Pause" control, it can be useful for interrupting the operation of the unit.

**Submitted by the
WA ARCHIVES**

IT ALL STARTED . . .

In San Jose sometime in the early 1940's, possibly about 1943, when the first A.A. group was formed and the first meeting place was the Catholic Women's Center in San Jose. Some of the first members were Herman K., Al C. and Martin K. We know there were others, but their names have been forgotten. Ruth H. was the first A.A. woman.

It was soon after that the first "Resentment Group" was started at Trinity Church in San Jose. The resentment has long since been forgotten, but the meeting is still in operation. The Trinity Group was started in November 1946 and has continued in the same location these many years. Trinity's 30th anniversary meeting was held in November 1976, with Martin K. as the speaker and many oldtimers in attendance. The evening was a success and a recording was made of the meeting.

**From 12/88 Intergroup
newsletter Santa Clara**

NUTS & BOLTS DEPT

**TOOLS WE NEED TO DIG UP
OUR HISTORY. SUGGESTIONS
FROM CHARLIE B., West Virginia**

1. Typewriter. Any will do. If you don't have one, find a volunteer in your district. At the minimum, clear writing or printing, help save your State Archivist's Eyes. Your responsibility. Make a carbon copy of everything!!!

2. Camera; I use a pocket model. They are self-focusing, easy to load disk film, come with built-in flash and need only two pencil batteries. Color film. Extra prints relatively cheap. (You probably want one print for State Archives, one for your district, and sometimes a complimentary print to the person in the photo).

3. Tape recorder. Modern cassette type. Shop around. When you're taping some old-timer or an event, make sure you begin the recording by identifying yourself, then person being interviewed, date, place, etc. Then begin the questioning, etc.

4. A telephone directory of your State Archivists, District Archivists, local district officers, GSRS, other volunteers in your District, GSO NY phone #, etc. Then maybe a file, each for all your groups in your district. Files on Old-Timers to be interviewed. A file for your Archives Booklets, service manual, "Markings" Newsletter for archivists from NY, etc. It'll grow, believe me.

5. Plastic paper clips, staples, metal clips are no-no. The metal reacts with moisture in air & rusts within a year sometimes, leaving a rusty mark on paper. Rubber bands should not be used either.

6. If you get a valuable memento or old souvenir from an AA assembly, etc., do not mark who gave it to you in ball point ink, etc. Best to attach a note with plastic paper clip or write lightly that info on the back in light pencil.

7. Car. If you don't have one to use for interview trips, better get busy finding some volunteers you can call for help. Pick out a newcomer, It'll be a great experience for him or her to listen to an Old-Timer talk about early AA in your district.

8. Willingness to serve. Whatever else you need to get the job done.

Dear Frank M.,

Enclosed you will find photographs of our Archives display which includes our area's A.A. History and some items of memorabilia. The display shown is approximately 5 feet wide and 45 feet long, and we are certainly proud of it. Archives collection started in Al.-N.W. Fl. area Jan 1, 1986. The first ever active Archive committee in our area.

Our first project came about in Jan. 1986. To make Al.-N.W. Fl. area aware of what Archives was all about, our goal was to be able to have workshops in each individual district. The first two years of our new found committee, the themes of the workshops were "The Scope and Purpose of the Archives" and from "The New Comer to the Old Timer; All Are Needed To Preserve History And Our Future." Through the efforts of our Archives Committees, the D.C.M.'s, the G.S.R.'s and fellow members of A.A., the goal was accomplished in 21 months. We have everything from a copy of our first edition Big Book Manuscript to a copy of the original Secretary's Hand Book (104 pages

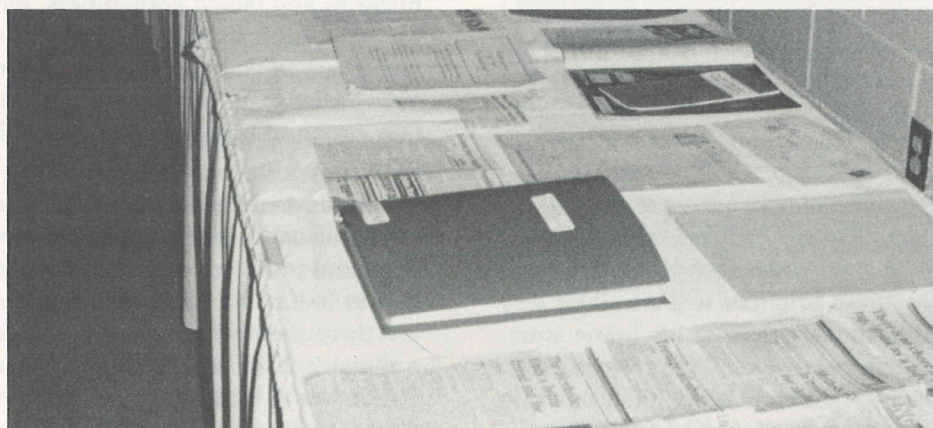
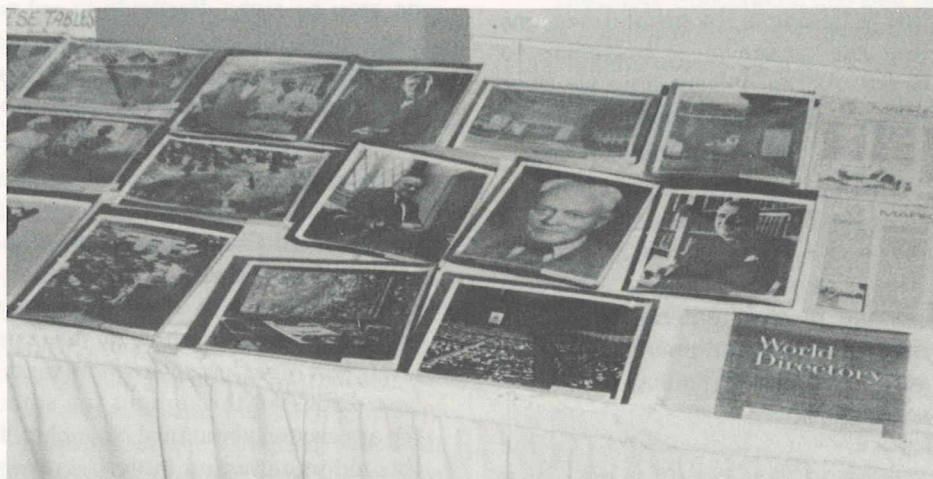
long) to tapes dating back to the 1940s of our beginners.

January 1989 brought a new goal to Al.-N.W. Fl. Archives. We are in the process of having 2 cases 30" w X 36" w x 96" built to put copies of our materials in as a portable traveling museum, and to be kept in a centrally located but secure place in one individual district. These cases will be placed in a district for a period of 1 month and then transferred on to the next district, until all districts have been able to display the materials.

There are many A.A. members that simply cannot afford to travel to see the display and by the display coming to their individual districts, they will be able to see and share the wonderful things that helped to make this fellowship the great spiritual power it is today.

Love in Service

Bo S.
Archives Chairman
Al.-N.W. Fl.



FAY W., SECRETARY OF ARKANSAS ARCHIVES WROTE:

... What is important is sharing a few things that we have experienced since that, we believe, caused a sudden enthusiastic reception of the need for our Archives. The first thing that Bob and I became aware of was our total inadequacy for the jobs we had been given. So, we began to explore ways to learn about archival work. We called the Arkansas State History Commission and they invited us to take a tour of the State Archives. We have visited them on several occasions and received about nine hours of instruction from various members of their staff, all free, a service supplied by the state to anyone involved in preservation of history. This instruction included collecting, sorting, restoring, inventorying, preserving, and securing, among other things.

This present committee chose to follow the Guidelines from New York. This has opened the door to materials that are not strictly Arkansas or, sometimes, not strictly AA. We believe this to be one of the primary reasons that this endeavor is beginning to thrive. At the present time we have room. We can always limit ourselves in the future if it becomes necessary.

This openness has allowed us to include Big Books (which are not Arkansas) and material about the Oxford Groups (which is not AA). We occasionally receive materials from AA members that originated in other states. We are beginning to see the value in this, since some of this material may eventually be lost to the Fellowship if we do not (as in a recent occurrence where an AA that had spent over thirty years in the program in another state before moving to Arkansas, called me and was in Little Rock undergoing cancer therapy. He had heard of our Archives and had brought along a treasure of old mementoes. We accepted them and will inventory them into our Archives. Eventually, these originals will find their way into the Archives of his home state, when they are able to receive them). These materials, also, allow us to do some trading with other states. We

learned this from Earl H., Oklahoma Archivist.

We realized that the AA members had a need to see their Archives. So we arranged to have the Archives open at regular times. Presently, the doors are open with either Bob or a member of the Committee present each Tuesday afternoon for one hour. We always open our doors the afternoon of the last day of our Area Assembly meetings, which are quarterly. When I am present during inventorying, I keep it open. These times, of course, are unannounced, but, since we are located in an AA club, we get frequent drop-ins. We, also, try to accommodate visitors by appointment.

Each contribution of materials for the Archives is at the time of inventory acknowledged with a letter of appreciation to the person or group that contributed it. Bob believes this may be one of the biggest factors in the sudden growth of the Archives. I believe he may be right. Particularly, when you couple this with access by the members. They need the assurance that their treasures have been preserved and cared for.

As you know, we have just had a Committee proposal accepted to add the Archives Committee on the District level. Since every District Committee Chairman is a member of the corresponding committee on the state level, this gives us twelve new members disbursed throughout the state. We are excited about this! Not only will this aid in gathering material, group histories and taping early timers, but we will have built-in help for the numerous workshops we have begun to be invited to put on around the state. Our Archivist traveled 600+ mi. in 3 mo.

Various members of the Committee have put on Workshops on archival work and how it carries the message in over half of our districts during the last three months. We usually include a filmstrip from GSO, "Marking On The Journey". We usually carry a travel display, including materials from the

groups and district that we are visiting. Our travel display goes to various conventions around the state as well.

In conclusion, here are the things that we feel have most contributed to the growth of our Archives:

1. A Committee consisting of all past-delegates in the state, who lend credibility and guidance, and a GSR from each district. This gives us a committee composed of half rotating (GSRs) and half permanent (past-delegates which we hope will remain as advisers). A Chairman with long-time sobriety.
2. Regular Committee meetings, quarterly, in conjunction with our Area Assembly. An active secretary, who sends out minutes to all concerned.
3. Archives Committees on the district level, which creates more workers and more interest.
4. A dedicated Archivist, willing to devote time and travel about the state. He must be trained for the job, and since the training is time-consuming and sometimes expensive, he should be considered a "special worker", and be non-rotating (as you know, we have been unable to get this added to our Area Guidelines, but we are hoping it will happen. Arkansas Area 04 Archives' continuing success may hinge on this one factor).
5. Funding that will allow rent for a secure place to store materials.
6. Access by AA members to their Archives.
7. Communication, communication, communication!!! Committee minutes, Workshops, Area reports of activities, letters of acknowledgement of materials received - all these ways to communicate keep materials flowing in. In fact, I must admit that this is so important a tool, that as the one who does the inventorying, I have found this to be the #1 key. We always get a flood immediately following any of the above events.