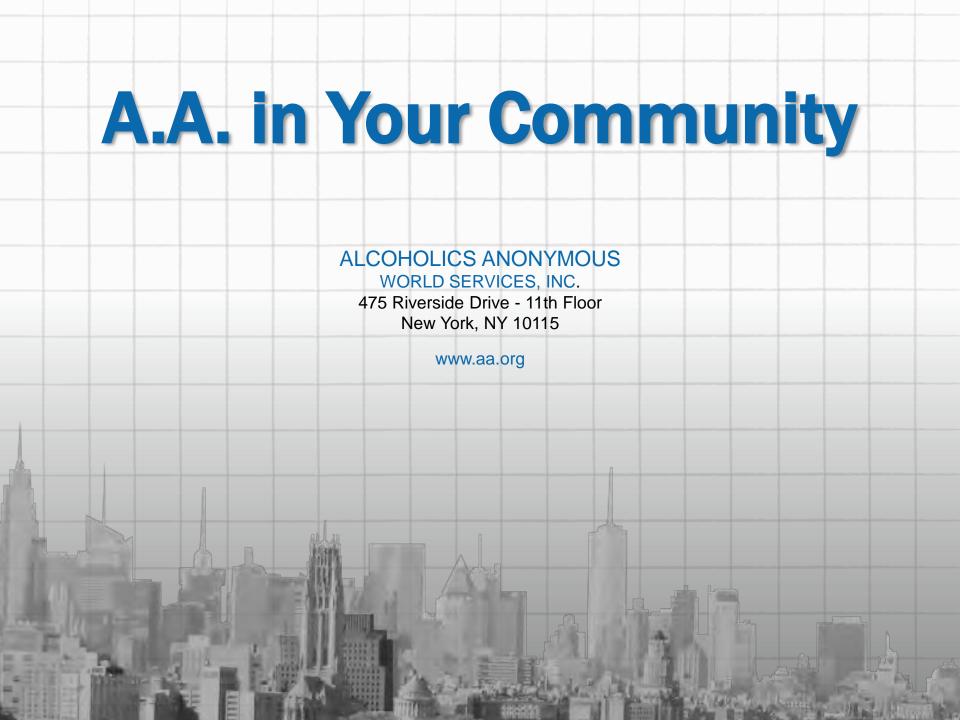
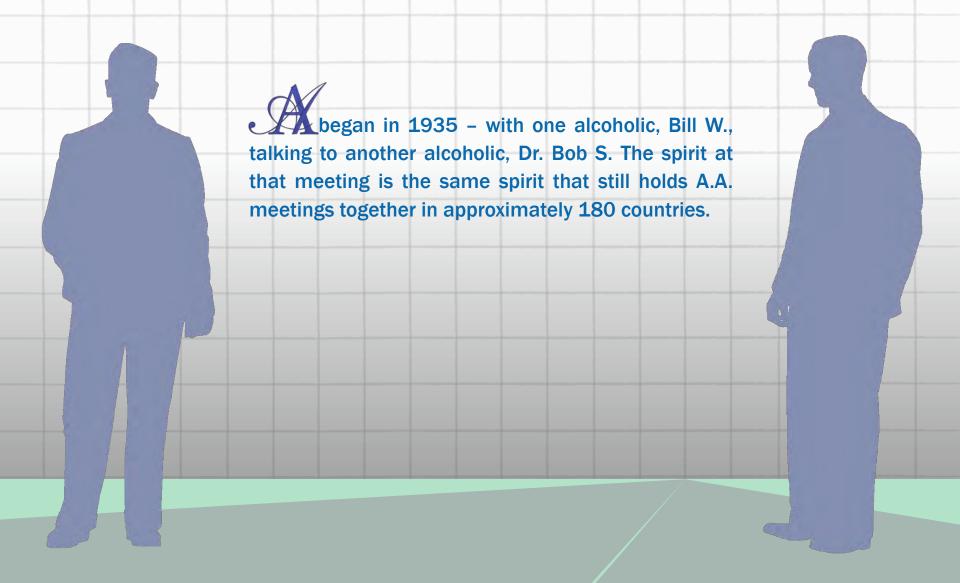
### **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

Let's Be Friendly with Our Friends

**Your Local A.A. Community** 



#### Some Facts About A.A.

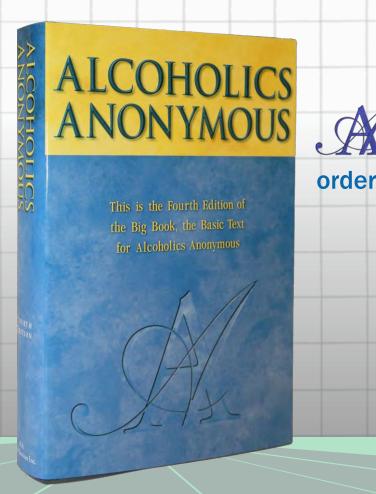


#### The A.A. Program of Action

- A way to stop drinking and stay stopped
- A.A.'s suggested Twelve Steps are the program of recovery
- The Steps are based on the experience of early A.A. members



# A.A.'s Spirit of Service



members help other alcoholics in order to help themselves.

# A.A. Unity

A.A.'s Twelve Traditions ensure unity and act as a guide for members, groups, and the Fellowship as a whole.



#### **A.A.'s Twelve Traditions**

who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

A co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous tells how members recover and how the society functions.

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS

> ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES, INC.

#### What Does A.A. Do?

- A.A. offers a Twelve Step program of recovery
- Groups put on A.A. meetings
- A.A. members share their experience
- Local committees carry the A.A. message



- Solicit members
- Make medical diagnoses
- Provide hospitalization or drugs
- Keep attendance records/case histories
- Offer religious services
- Address prevention, treatment, advocacy or legislation

# Singleness of Purpose

- A.A.'s focus is on recovery from alcoholism
- Anyone may observe open meetings
- Closed meetings are for those with a drinking problem
- Anyone with a desire to stop drinking may become an A.A. member
- A.A. members bring meetings into correctional and treatment facilities

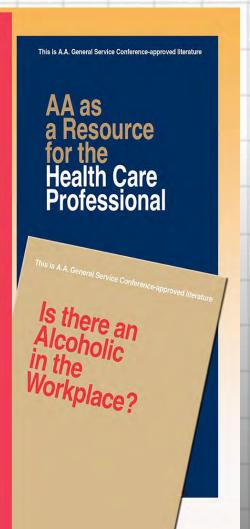
#### Information for Professionals

A Message Corrections Professionals... This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature Members of the Clergy about Alcoholics Anonymous

If You are a Professional...

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature

Alcoholics Anonymous wants to work with you

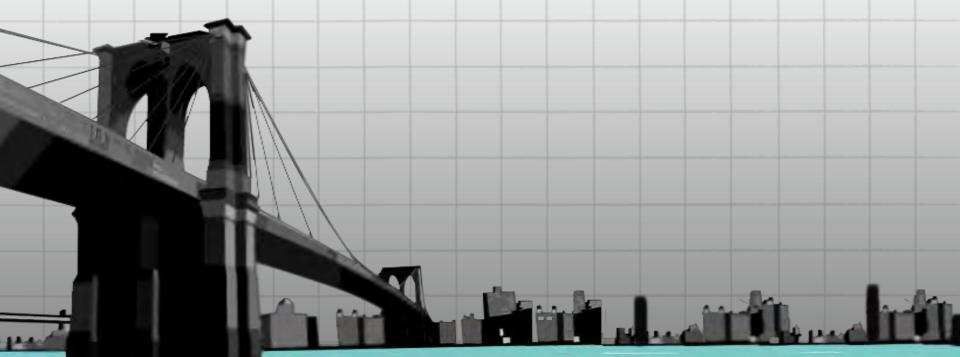




### A.A. and Professionals

Mental Health Provider Supervisor Physician
Clergy Social Worker Coach Educator Judge
Physician Assistant Employee Assistance
PROFESSIONAL

Union Representative
Military Leader Nurse
Corrections Officer



# Proof of Attendance at A.A. Meetings

Sometimes a referral source asks for proof of attendance at A.A. meetings.

- Groups cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group's involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.
- O Some groups with the consent of the prospective member, have an A.A. member acknowledge attendance on a slip that has been furnished by the referral source. The referred person is responsible for returning the proof of attendance.

# How Can You Cooperate with A.A. to Help your Patients/Clients?

- Maintain contact with the local A.A. community
- Observe open A.A. meetings
- Read A.A. literature and view pages/videos on www.aa.org directed to professionals
- Subscribe to About A.A.
   newsletter (free) / Grapevine or
   La Viña magazines (cost)
- Contact the General Service Office to get connected with local A.A.s

A Newsletter for Professionals

Spring 2017

#### About AA

#### **Myths and Misconceptions**

The relationship of Alcoholics Anonymous to the professional community is an extremely important and longstanding one. A.A.s 2014 Membership Survey shows that 32% of A.A. members were introduced to the program via a treatment facility, 12% of A.A. members were introduced to the program through the judicial system, and fully 59% of members received some kind of counseling (psychological or spiritual) related to their alcoholism before coming into A.A. Importantly, 74% of those members who received treatment or counseling said it played a crucial role in directing them to A.A. Given these numbers, perhaps no group of nonalcoholics looms so large in relation to A.A. as those professionals in the fields of health care, addiction medicine, and the law, whose working lives intersect daily with Alcoholics Anonymous.

A.A. publishes a number of resources aimed specifically at this critical relationship (particularly the pamphlets "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care

phlets "A.A. as a Resource for the I Professional," "How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals," "If You Are a Professional" and "A Newcomer Asks") and perriodically asks members of the professional community: "What are some of the myths and misconceptions professionals may have in referring alcoholics to A.A.? And how can professionals help steer at alcohol-



munication and understanding between A.A. and the many professionals who work with alcoholics. From his twin vantage points, he has run into a number of misconceptions about A.A.

"Medication-assisted therapy is big in the treatment community and there is a misconception that A.A is somehow against medication," be says. "This is not true. A.A. as such has no opinion on what medication is appropriate for an individual. While it is true that some people may substitute addictions — pills for alcohol, say — many A.A. members truly need medication, and Alcoholics Anonymous does not offer medical advice. This is spelled out in the pamphlet "The A.A. Member — Medication and Other Drugs," which clearly shares our experience of both situations — the possibility of alcoholics abusing other substances and the clear reality that some A.A. members need prescribed

medications. It also suggests that it is the responsibility of our members to be honest with their doctors about their alcoholism and how

about their alcoholism and how medication affects them, and that all medical advice should come from a qualified health professional. I have shown this pamphlet to treatment professionals who seem surprised to see it. They have said: 'That must be a brand-new pamphlet.' But, no, it has been around since 1984 and was updated in 2011. So, this is information that needs to be more



# **Alcoholics Anonymous**



www.aa.org

www.aagrapevine.org

Thank you!