

Call for District 42 Group Histories

District 42 of Area 29 (Maryland General Service) has begun a project to compile and preserve the histories of the district and the groups it serves. The pamphlet *The A. A. Archives* quotes Carl Sandburg as saying, "Whenever a society or a civilization perishes, there is always one factor present: they forgot where they came from." Let's not let that happen to our fellowship.

Answering the Call

Each group in District 42 can contribute immensely to the preservation of A. A.'s local history by completing the attached form as fully as possible and submitting it to the District 42 Archives. If possible, the group's story in the form of a brief written history comprising all the information on the form should be submitted as well.

If possible, please include a photograph of the meeting place (meeting room or building) to be archived as a part of the group's history. Please ensure the photo does not include any identifiable person or personal information.

Compiling and maintaining complete and accurate group histories will help to ensure that present and future members of A. A., their families, and historians and other researchers have an undistorted view of the fellowship's beginnings and development.

New Groups

Do not put off submitting the form just because your group is too new to have a "history." The best time to record the nature of your group and how and why it began is while everything is still fresh in everyone's minds. Those who follow in your path will want to know how you did it.

Older Groups

If your group has been meeting for a while, or longer, it is important to collect historical

information now, while older members are still able to share about the group's beginnings. There may also be group conscience minutes and other documents containing valuable insights into early group decisions and practices. We cannot learn from a past that is lost from living memory and was never recorded.

How the Information is Used

The Archivist will store the form and a written history of the group based on the data entered. The written history, and any photo that the group submitted, will also be posted on the District 42 website, www.mdaadistrict42.org.

Written History

The group's written history may be submitted along with the filled in form. If the group prefers, the Archivist can compose a written history using the data on the form, but the group's own writing will likely be much better. It will be from the personal perspective of someone who was there and who has a detailed knowledge of the group's "personality" and its approach to conducting its affairs.

Sharing

Each group history, photo if any, and the data collected will be shared with the Area 29 Archives Committee. Area 29 may in turn share the histories and data with the A. A. General Service Office Archives.

To protect the anonymity of past and present members of Alcoholics Anonymous any materials containing last names or other personal information will be treated as confidential, for the use of A. A. members only. Any personally identifiable information will be removed from any materials posted online or otherwise made available to the public.

**Group History
for
District 42 Archives**

Please fill in the answers to as many of the following questions as possible. It is not necessary to answer every question, but the more information you can include, the more complete the history will be. You may submit updates at any time if more is learned later about the group's history or if changes occur.

The group may designate one person or a committee, likely including some long-time members, to fill in the form. Original, long-time, or past members of the group may be willing to give a little of their time before or after a meeting or separately to share valuable memories of the group's early days, such as: who started the group and why, how large or small it was, who attended, and how long they met at any given location. They may add some funny, touching, or historically significant anecdotes that would otherwise be lost to us. If you would like the District 42 Archivist to attend and audio record such a meeting contact archivist@mdaadistrict42.org. It may be useful to contact or meet with others who no longer attend the group's meetings, or who have moved away, and see what they can add to the group's collective memory.

After you have filled in as much of the form as possible you may: (a) hand it to the group's General Service Representative (GSR) to pass on to the District 42 Archivist or (b) scan and email it to the archivist at archives@mdaadistrict42.org or (c) postal mail it to: District 42, P.O. Box 3161, Crofton, MD 21114, Attn: Archives.

If possible, please also attach a photograph of the meeting place (meeting room and/or building). Please ensure the photo does not include any identifiable person or personal information.

If more room is needed, you may use the back of the form or additional blank sheets.

Hal S.
District 42 Archivist
October 11, 2017

Name of Group _____

Six-digit Group Service Number, if applicable _____

Intergroup Number, if applicable _____

Date Form Was Prepared _____

1. Who were the founding members of the group?

Group History (Continued)

2. Where and when was the first meeting held? In date order, list where later meetings have been held. Include city, state, building, residence, church, clubhouse, etc.

3. Did the group list with the General Service Office at the time the members first met?

4. Have there been any changes to the group's name over the years?

5. What initiated the meeting: was it the offshoot of a parent group; was there a split due to disagreements; did a few A.A.s simply decide to start a hometown group, etc.

Group History (Continued)

6. How did the founding members let the community know that a new A.A. meeting was forming?

7. How many members attended the group's first meeting?

8. Describe any restrictions or conditions on member or attendee composition, for example, men only, women, young people, etc.

9. What was the original meeting format (open or closed, discussion or speaker, Step, Big Book, As Bill Sees It, etc.)?

Group History (Continued)

10. Has the meeting format changed over the years? If so, when and why did the changes occur?

11. How has the group experienced growth over the years?

12. Are group inventories conducted regularly and have they been helpful?

13. Who were the early group officers? List, for example, GSR, Group Contact, Chair, Group Secretary, Treasurer, etc.

Group History (Continued)

14. Has the group used a steering committee?

15. Have any group members participated in District, Area or other service to the Fellowship?

16. How has the group celebrated the anniversary of its founding?

17. Describe how the group has cooperated with professional agencies (by signing court slips, supporting a meeting in an institutional setting, taking regular phone duty at the Intergroup or Central Office, etc.).

Group History (Continued)

18. Has the group participated in special local or regional A.A. functions, such as conventions, conferences, round-ups, forums or workshops?

19. Any additional information or comments about the group?
