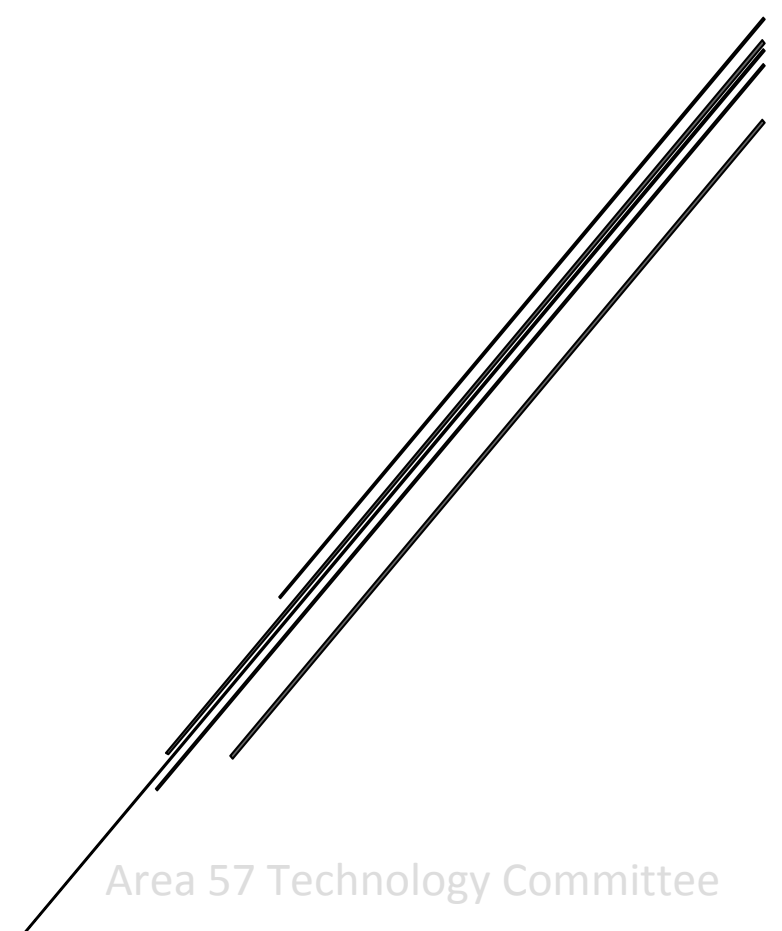


*THE HOME GROUP
WEBSITE*



Area 57 Technology Committee

A short guide to questions about a home group
website

By the Area 57 Technology Committee.

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In conclusion, your District Technology Chair member can help you with the group conscience and or web hosting questions or put you in contact with someone that can assist.

Technology is changing the way we carry the message in Alcoholics Anonymous and these questions and many more will help groups decide what is best for their group in light of the traditions and experience.

A workshop for your group is available upon request:

What:

Internet – Opportunities and Challenges of Technology

When: **Anytime**

Where: **Any Place**

Contact David C – 918-804-7172 or email technologies@aaoklahoma.org

5TH TRADITION

Carrying the Message thru Modern Technology

**Internet – Computers – Homepages – Cell Phones – Websites – Chat –
Forums - Email**

ANONYMITY

Anonymity @ Public Level -11th tradition

Anonymity @ Personal Level – 12th tradition

BECOME INFORMED

If something happens to the person whose name the site is registered to, then the group will have problems moving or transferring the domain name.

In light of that, the Oklahoma Conference Committee has established a non-profit status in order to have bank account or debit card in the committees name rather than an individual's name. This prevents possible problems with the web site or the registration should something happen to the individuals managing the site.

To get non-profit status is as easy as filing a form with IRS and The Oklahoma Tax Commission. Likewise, NPO or 501C3 - filing can be obtained thru companies that specialize in non-profits. Do not hesitate to consider this if there may be a chance of losing that web person in your group.

Finally with those 2 components – **Registrar and Hosting Company** – your group needs web master. The **web master may or may not be a technical person**. The reason is that many web hosting companies offer web site tools that can be managed by a few clicks of a mouse, so someone with moderate computer skills can be a web master as well, provided that you choose a web hosting company that offers the “web site builder tools” as they are often advertised.

The information age is now. Many companies and organizations have a web site. The websites carry information about the organization and most even offer services and products. Maybe you or members of your home group have thought about a web site.

This guide is to help your home group decide if it wants a website and if so how.

The Area 57 Technologies Committee maintains the Oklahoma Alcoholics Anonymous website.

Our web address is **AAOklahoma.org**

It is managed by an independent “web master”. Our Area57 policy says that the web master may or not be an alcoholic. We did this in case we cannot find a web master who is an alcoholic in AA.

Alcoholics Anonymous itself has a national web site AA.ORG that is run independently of any other AA web site.

Besides the Area57 and the National AA web sites, we also have an AA North East Central Service office web site whose address is **AANEOK.org**.

Again all these sites are independent of each other but they cooperate with each other.

The national **AA.org** site lists our Oklahoma AA state web site. The **AAOklahoma.org** website has a link to the **AANEOK.org** web site etc.

In light of the already present web sites dedicated to Alcoholics Anonymous, your group may ask this question:

Does our Home group need a web site? If you think you do, then you might list them on a sheet of paper during the group conscious.

Ex: We need a website for all of our group activities and birthday announcements.

Ex: We need a website to reach out to local potential alcoholics that are not being helped in any other way.

If your group decides it needs a website then the following information may help:

1) Have you read **AA Guidelines – Internet?** – THIS IS IMPORTANT – it will help

It can be downloaded from

[http://www.aa.org/en_pdfs/mg-](http://www.aa.org/en_pdfs/mg-18_internet.pdf)

18_internet.pdf or found at any of the state central service offices or from your Area or district technology chair. The guideline offers information about anonymity, copyright restrictions and domain names.

2) Not included in the afore mentioned guideline is this:

When you actually want to create the website you must do 2 things:

- A. **Register** the domain name with an internet registrar like Go Daddy or Network Solutions and then
- B. Get the website **hosted** by a web hosting company.

This means some one's name has to be on it. And a credit card number has to be submitted in order to pay for the annual registration and to pay for the monthly or annual hosting fee.