



If you are holding this -- then **PLEASE** help us gather AA history for the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's by helping the old-timers in your group fill this out or you can record their answers. You can help -- just by handing someone this form.

DOING AN ORAL/WRITTEN HISTORY INTERVIEW:

Thank you for helping us collect another oral interview to help preserve the history of A.A. in Oklahoma.

You may want to hand the attached list of questions to your old-timer a day or two ahead of your interview with them - so that they are familiar with the questions and can tell you if they'd prefer not to answer one or two of them.

Written Interviews:

- 1) Yes, you may give an old-timer these questions and they may write out their answers (for those who are microphone shy).
- 2) Yes, you can write out their answers yourself - if you wish.

Taped Interviews:

You can get relatively inexpensive "voice recorder" at office supply places (or we have an archives one at the State A.A. office you can check out) that come with software to put on your computer -- so that after you finish the oral interview taping, you can plug the voice recorder into your computer and produce a CD to turn into the State Archives (at the State A.A. Office).

Transcribing the Interview:

We have the equipment at the State A.A. office to transcribe any interview done on mini-cassettes, regular cassette tapes or CDs.

Note: Your efforts in doing this are helping to keep our legacies alive and who knows - thirty years from now - maybe your great-great-great grand sponsee will benefit.

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS - FOR OLD TIMERS

Date & Person being Interviewed: Interviewer - "This is (Your Name), a member of the Area 57 (Oklahoma) Archives Committee. I'm (give location - person's home, etc). Today is (Give today's date). I'm visiting with (Give the old-timer's name).

1. (Person's Name), what is your sobriety date?
2. How did you first hear about AA and what source?
3. What year was that?
4. What did that person tell you about AA?
5. Did someone come get you and take you to your first meeting? Who was it (if you remember) and where did they take you? Do you remember how many people were there that night or in that group?
6. Did you continue to go to meetings there - or did you also go to other groups?
7. What was your impression of that first meeting?
8. What do you remember about your first few meetings? What did you think of it?
9. Did you go to AA regularly after that? Where all did you go to meetings?
10. How did you detox? What were your first days of sobriety like?
11. How soon did you get a sponsor? How soon did you start to work the steps?
12. Did you have any problems back then learning "the AA way of life"? What were they?

13. What did people in your community think about AA in those days?
14. If you stopped going to meetings, or had trouble getting sober - where did you go to meetings when you were able to stay sober?
15. Who were the old-timers you remember most? What kinds of things did they tell you?
16. How many groups were there in your area when you got sober?
17. Did you hold any positions in your group, like secretary, treasurer, GSR or Grapevine rep?
18. Who furnished the literature back in those days? Where did you get your Big Book? What about any pamphlets, etc.?

19. What did the Grapevine mean to you back then?

20. At meetings - how did you study the Big Book?
21. What did you hear about AA's "code" - Love and Tolerance?
22. What did you think about the slogans as you heard about them?

23. What do you remember about the Traditions being introduced to the Fellowship?
24. What was going on in your life when you got sober? Were you married? Children? Working?
25. Did you ever move to another city/town during your sobriety? Who did you contact about AA in the new city/town?
26. What kind of things were done for "fellowship" before and after meetings, or other special get togethers - in your early sobriety?
27. Were you ever involved in beginners meetings? What format did you use?
28. Was sponsorship different then - than it is now? How?
29. Did you go to any out-of-town meetings - or visit any other groups out-of-town?
30. Do you remember any of the out-of-town people that you met?
31. What kinds of 12th step work did you do?
32. How did "working with others" help you to stay sober?
33. Did you help any other groups get started? Which ones and when? What problems did you run into - if any?
34. Were you ever a DCM or involved in the State Committee?
35. Did you go to any large conventions or conferences?
36. Did you ever meet Bill Wilson, Dr. Bob or any of the first 100 members of AA?
37. Did you attend any meetings that met in homes? Why do you feel there were so many of those here in Oklahoma?

38. What did the hospitals or detox places do with alcoholics when you got sober?
39. Were you involved in the early days of any clubhouse?
40. Can you recall the different types of formats used to conduct meetings (how were meetings run)? How do they differ from today?
41. What group was your Home Group? Where did it meet? How often did it meet?
42. How many meetings a week were you able to attend in your first years of sobriety?
43. Who were some of the people involved in starting new groups in your area?

44. What else do you know about the growth of AA in your town? During your early years?
45. Which people were especially important to your sobriety?
46. When you got sober, how were new members contacted? Do you have any experiences of "going out and finding drunks"?

47. Would you tell me about some of your experiences sponsoring others?
48. What contributions do you feel that your home group has made to the growth of the Fellowship?
49. What do you remember about the early business of AA - selling Big Books, writing letters to GSO, registering groups with GSO, etc. (the beginnings of our OKC Intergroup, Tulsa Central Service & State AA Office) ?
50. Who answered the phones back then? How did you get calls for help?
51. When did you first hear about GSO in New York? What was your impression?
52. What was it like as GSO created new literature throughout the years? What did your group think of it? Did your group make an effort to get each new piece of literature as it came out?
53. How often did you use the Big Book? How often the new pamphlets or other literature in your early years of sobriety?
54. How did AA treat newcomers, when you were new? How soon were you involved in greeting newcomers?
55. How did your group(s) back then treat chronic "Slippers"? Thirteenth steppers?
56. How were people wishing to talk about multiple additions during your meetings addressed back then?
57. What have your experiences been with people who also have problems with prescription or street drugs - in addition to alcohol?
58. Have you ever tried to sponsor or help someone who has been "sent" to AA meetings but doesn't think they are alcoholics? What have those experiences been like?
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59. We've all heard that all it takes for a new group to start is "a resentment and a coffee pot". What reasons do you know of that caused new groups to start?
60. What did your group(s) think when the treatment centers started sending so many people to us?
61. What did your group(s) think when the courts and other agencies started sending people to us?
62. Did you or your group(s) do any work to reach out to the community (clergy, lawyers, doctors, police officers, judges, etc.)?
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63. Were there every any tradition or anonymity breaks at your group(s)? How were they handled?
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64. Have you ever seen or heard any of the public service announcements (PSA's) for AA on radio or TV? Were those "crawls" or PSA's ever discussed at your group(s)?
65. We're hardly ever involved in detoxing drunks anymore. What kinds of things to you give people you helped sober up (honey, candybars, small shots of booze)? Do you remember any weird concoctions or "cures" used to sober people up?

66. How have the hospitals and medical personnel changed since you got sober regarding alcoholism?
67. What was your "sobering up" like? Did you "shake it out" at an AA group?
68. Was your spouse or family involved with you in your early days of sobriety? What about now?
69. What was your social life like in AA and outside of AA in your early years of sobriety?
70. How active in service work were you?
71. What were two of the biggest "turning points" of your sobriety. Things that - if they hadn't happened you might not have stayed sober?
72. Anything else you'd like to mention?

(Thank them for the interview).

If they were ACTIVE in service work ...

- a) How and why did you get into service work?
 - b) What was your first service activity?
 - c) Who initially made the outreach to you - to get you involved in service work?
 - d) How did you first hear about the 3 Legacies of AA - Recovery, Service & Unity?
 - e) What was your impression or perception of AA "trusted servants" before you got involved in service work? What about after?
 - f) Do you remember the first time you heard about AA having Delegates and/or the General Service Conference in New York? What did you hear? When was the first time you met a Delegate?
 - g) What were you told about the staff at GSO? How has that changed as you've been involved in service work?
 - h) Were you ever involved in a conference committee?
 - i) Did your group have reps for public information (PI), cooperation with the professional community (CPC), corrections, treatment, Bridge-the-Gap, Intergroup, or other group service endeavors?
 - j) How have District Committee Meetings changed through your sobriety? Area (State) Meetings?
 - k) Have you ever attended an International Conference? What do you remember most?
 - l) How has AA changed (if it has) since you first found it - and how has or does service in AA affect that?
 - m) What changes would you like to see in the overall AA structure or regarding general service work?
 - n) How did you feel service work has helped you to stay sober?
 - o) What would you like for all new people to be told about service work, after they have gotten through the steps and managed to stay sober. How should that be told to them?
 - p) How do you think we can best learn from our AA history?
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