# AREA 57 2013 TECHNOLOGY SURVEY
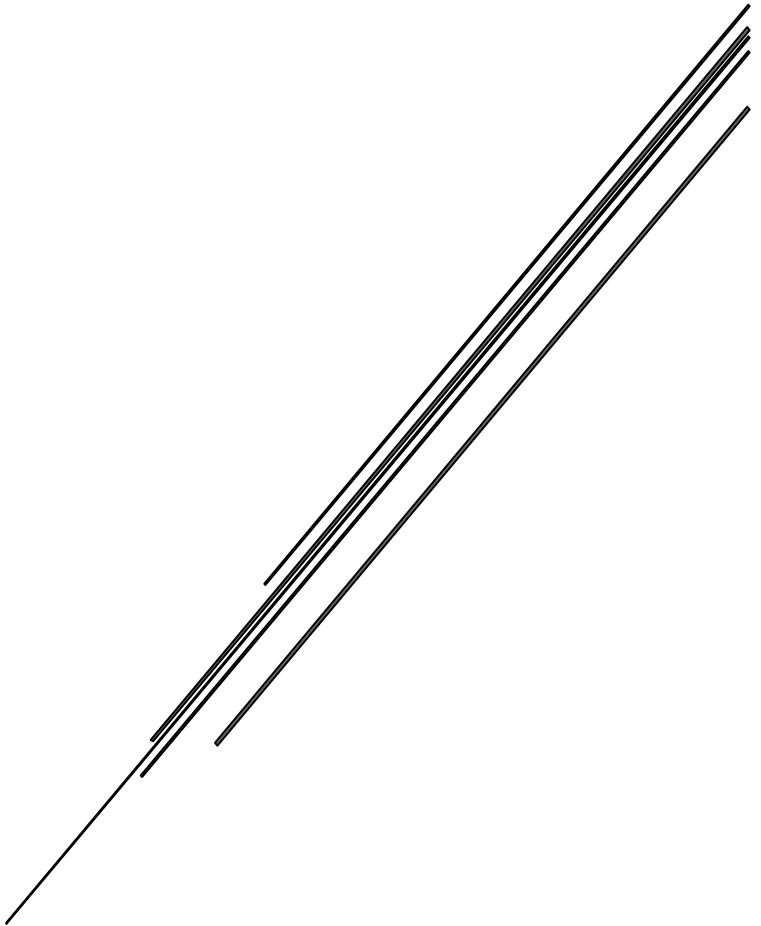
Area 57 Technology Committee

# Area 57-2013 Technology Survey

These are the results of a survey administered by the

**Area 57 Technologies Committee** between 2012 and 2013

The purpose of the survey was to determine the Fellowships use of technology in personal recovery as well as the use of technology to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 57.

1. **Do you use technologies like cell phones and computers to access AA recovery resources? If so, what technology do you use and what information do you get?**

   159 people answered this question. 134 answered yes and 25 answered no. Of the 134 who answered yes, the majority used cell phones or both cell phones and computers to access various information. The two main things people did were access the Area 57 website for information and look up meeting/conference information. The other top three reasons for technologies use were to access AA material/literature, to correspond with other members & groups, and access the intergroup website.

2. **Would you consider allowing the use of the Big Book or 12 & 12 e-book on a tablet or cell phone in your meetings? If your group does allow this, what are the positive and negative results?**

   158 people responded to this question. 137 people said they would consider allowing it, 16 said they would not consider it, and 5 said possibly. The majority of people who answered yes don't have an issue with it but see how it can be distracting. The people who answered no are primarily concerned with the hard copy books ultimately being replaced by the electronic devices in the future.

3. **Do you use the aaoklahoma.org web site and if so for what?**

   157 people answered this question. 126 people answered yes, 26 answered no, and 5 people answered rarely. The majority of people who answered yes access the website for meeting lists, area information, or the quarterly newsletter.

4.  **Do you think it's OK to put your recovery online if private?**

    143 people answered this question. 56 people answered yes, 54 answered no, 21 had no opinion, 6 answered yes if personal choice and 6 answered yes if anonymous. People who answered yes think it's an important way to reach the suffering alcoholic and those who can't reach meetings in an efficient manner. Those who answered no, believe it could be a potential invasion of privacy and possibly violate the 11$^{th}$ or 12$^{th}$ Tradition.

5.  **Do you know which Tradition(s) apply to technologies?**

    154 people answered this question. 136 people answered yes, 13 answered no, and 5 people answered not sure. Of the majority who answered yes, they believe it applies to Traditions 10, 11 and 12 or any others related to anonymity. Some groups have discussed creating a "Group Tech Rep" position, and one group has even elected a Group Tech Rep.

6.  **Would you use the aaoklahoma.org web site for AA chat meetings if guaranteed private?**

    158 people answered this question. 32 people answered yes, 106 answered no, 11 answered maybe and 9 people answered probably not. The majority of people who answered no are primarily concerned with anonymity and privacy issues. Those who answered yes believe it could be used to make additional meetings or connect when traveling.

7. **Would you like to receive text message reminders of AA birthdays and service work?**

159 people answered this question.  81 people answered yes, 76 answered no, and 2 people answered maybe.  The people who answered no preferred emails over texts.  The majority who answered yes think it's a convenient and helpful reminder.

8. **What would you like to see changed on the aaoklahoma.org web site?**

99 people answered this question.  28 people answered nothing, 63 people gave a suggestion, and 8 people don't know.  One suggestion was to remove closed meetings from the site. Two other suggestions that were voiced multiple times included creating a more user-friendly meeting list and updating the site more often.

9. **Do you think a lot of young people would look for AA online first before calling AA on the phone?**

146 people answered this question.  105 people answered yes, 6 answered no, 31 answered probably or not sure and 2 people answered maybe.  Of the majority who answered yes, most believed that younger people look online first and that access is more convenient.  Several added that this was how they got in contact with AA.

## 10. Do you think current technologies can assist in doing 12-step work?

142 people answered this question. 90 people answered yes, 25 answered no, 15 answered probably, 11 answered maybe and 1 person answered don't know. Those who answered yes thought that cell phones, computers, etc. help stay connected with sponsors and other support. The ones who answered no believe that face to face contact is more effective. There was noted concern about attraction rather than promotion and personal anonymity.

## 11. Can the message of Alcoholics Anonymous be transmitted online?

140 people answered this question. 111 answered yes, 9 answered no and 20 answered maybe. Of those who answered yes most thought it was a good way to contact individuals in the area and that it's another great way to carry the message. The majority of people who maybe thought it could explain basic information, like the disease concept, etc.

## 12. When the Area uses modern technology (like email and text messages for example) do you feel like that is usurping the duties of the DCM to communicate with your group? If you are a DCM, do you feel like it is, or does it help you communicate with your groups?

103 people answered this question. 33 people answered yes and 70 answered no. The majority who answered no think it's a more efficient way to contact people in a timely manner. It helps reach more people allowing those in service to assist and represent the geological base. Those who answered yes were worried that it would be used as a substitute for DCM visits.

**Summary**:

The 2013 Area 57 Technology Survey resonates a growing reliance on technology to "Carry the Message" of hope and recovery in Oklahoma. It is the "first face" of alcoholics anonymous in our area for prospective members. Pockets of enthusiasm have shown that technology, when rightly used can assist and foster the same guarded message of hope and recovery by new means of communication to a vastly enormous audience of unknowns.

Secondly, participation in service and twelve step work are being augmented by technologies in way's AA had not even dreamed.

Finally, it may be said that the survey reflects the fundamental truth - which the "Language of the Heart" conveys in one on one - face to face- contact with real persons is sound and strong in Area 57.

Going forward, the Technologies Committee will review the answers given by the area and discuss any relevant changes to policy, guidelines and use of technology in Area 57.

Your garnered interest in the service to the fellowship is most welcome in all discussions related to Technology in Area 57. Please thank your district Technology Chairs for service well done.

## **May the Force Be With You!**

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