

NORTHERN NJ HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE
SUGGESTED GUIDELINE FOR INTERVIEWING AN A.A. MEMBER

The following is provided to assist you in interviewing an A. A. member. We hope the interview will last approximately 1 hour however if the member doesn't want to talk for a full hour, we will be happy with 10, 20, or 30 minutes! Above all else, we want this to be a positive and comfortable experience for all involved.

Try to arrange the interview in a location with limited distractions and free of outside noise.

Before you begin the interview, explain that our primary purpose is to capture A. A.'s role in his/her story. The emphasis should be sobriety rather than drinking. Suggest that the member begin their story with their initial contact with A. A.

- You may use the Blue **"Voice Recorder"** App on your phone to tape the interview or Zoom for virtual.
- **If using Zoom**, change the settings to audio only and when ready to record hit the record button. Save the interview in the "Cloud" when it asks. This will make it easier to share when done.
- Start the recording: Introduce yourself – being careful with anonymity slips. Give the date and tell the name and last initial of the person you are interviewing. Remind the member to try not to use last names when they are speaking. If it should happen, the last name will be omitted by us before ever being shared.
- Tell the person you would like to record their discussion and ask for permission. Ask if they would mind if this recording (with all anonymity slips removed and no identifying names) can be used or posted in the future on the Area 44 website.

The member may want to reminisce, but you may help to focus their discussion by asking the following questions:

1. How did he/she first learn about A. A.? How did he/she first contact A. A.?
2. How many groups or meetings were in existence when they started in A. A.?
3. Did he/she have a home group? What was the name and location of the group?
4. What individuals were especially prominent in his/her sobriety?
5. Did he/she have a sponsor? Did he/she have sponsees?
6. How did he/she work the 12 Steps? How did he/she learn about the 12 traditions?
7. What kind of 12th step work was going on? How did you help the newcomer?
8. Did he/she have any contact with G. S. O.? Bill W.? Dr. Bob?
9. What special A. A. functions did he/she attend (e.g., International Conventions, assemblies, Intergroup)?
10. What A. A. literature was most important to him/her?
11. How did he/she come to find a power greater than themselves?
12. How does he/she think A. A. has changed?