

# Guidelines for Writing Grapevine Articles

With these guidelines, we'd like to welcome you to the pages of the A.A. Grapevine, where we hope you will feel at home. The Grapevine is *your* magazine, and nearly half of every issue is written by A.A. members who have never written for the Grapevine before.



With a little willingness and a desire to share, AA members around the world have been submitting their personal stories, their sorrows and joys, their ups, downs, and in between to the AA Grapevine since 1944. So why stop now?

Without your written experiences and opinions, the magazine cannot continue to be an effective tool for sober living and a vital, accurate picture of the Fellowship as a whole. So, if you've hesitated -thinking you can't do it- why not consider joining A.A.'s meeting in print? You might just keep coming back!

As you plan your article, keeping in mind AA's singleness of purpose, you might want to leaf through a few old issues to get an idea of the sort of articles most often published. Then close the magazine, and do your own thing! Say what *you* want to say, not what you think we'd publish. And don't be timid about branching out; we're always looking for a change of pace, as long as it relates to AA experience.

**FORMAT** If possible, manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, with generous margins. If you don't have a typewriter or word processor, though, don't worry about it. Just write clearly and legibly, on one side of the page only. If you quote from AA literature (or another source) in your manuscript, please give the correct name of the source, along with the page number.

**LENGTH** Maybe you heard a one-liner in a meeting that you'd like to pass along, or maybe you just want to relate one short but sweet incident, or maybe you really want to go in-depth on a particular subject -no matter how short or long, the important thing is that you say what you want to say. The average contribution varies from one to five or six typed pages, but if the editorial staff feels that much cutting is need, we will seek your permission. Normally our editing is very slight.

**What We Do Not Publish** Poems, personal prayers, tributes to individual A.A.s, drama, anything not related to Alcoholics Anonymous (such as articles about the field of alcoholism treatment, legislation, medical advances, etc.)

**Where to send it:** Send your completed manuscript to The Grapevine, Editorial Department, P.O. Box 1980, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-1980. You will be notified whether or not the piece will be published, but since we work several months in advance, the length of time between acceptance and publication can vary from a couple of months to over a year. Your notification of publication will be a complimentary advance copy of the issue in which your article appears. Good tuck, and welcome home!

(See Grapevine Editorial Policy on reverse side.)

# EDITORIAL POLICY

## The AA Grapevine

The AA Grapevine magazine, often called a "meeting in print, " publishes articles that reflect the full diversity of experience and opinion found within the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. No one viewpoint or philosophy dominates its pages, and in determining editorial content, the editors rely on the principles of the Twelve Traditions.

The heart of me Grapevine is in the shared experience of individual AA members working the AA program and applying the spiritual principles of the Twelve-Steps. Yet what works "for one individual or AA group may not: always work for another. For this reason, from month to month, articles may be published that appear to contradict each other. Seeking neither to gloss over difficult issues, nor to present such issues in a harmful or contentious manner, the Grapevine tries to embody the widest possible view of the AA Fellowship.

The Charter of the General Service Conference guarantees the Grapevine editor's right to accept or reject material for publication. Articles are evaluated by AA staff members, and while some editing is done for purposes of clarity, styling, and length, the editors encourage all writers to express their own experience in their own unique way-

Articles are not intended to be statements of AA policy, nor does publication of any article constitute endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or the AA Grapevine. Articles are invited, although no payment can be made nor can material be returned.