

# AA and Advancing Technologies

2013 Southwest Regional Forum

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Oklahoma City, OK

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# eTech Team

*Who, What, Why?*

*Here to **SERVE** regarding **TECHNOLOGY**, but  
**HOW?***

- *No Special Authority – We are AA Members*
- *Not affiliated with GSO – We are invited guests*
- *Financial Resources are limited*
- *Team is small and have “Day Jobs”*
- *Have broad experience across technology fields*

# Goal #1

*Define Technology Service in A.A.*

- Are we the only ones who care?
- What is the scope of work?
- How to be effective?
- What resources are available?
- Connect across the fellowship with technology workers

# Technology Service

To be defined by those trusted servants who participate.

→ Here we are

What are the ***Principles & Responsibilities*** involved for addressing technology service in the fellowship?

→ eTech Suggestion: **12 Statements of Technology**

“...guides to progress.”

*Tradition 5: “Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”*

*“The measure of technology value in AA is its support of 12 Step progress”*

~ Brouck H, 4/3/2012

# 12 Statements of Technology (v3)

1. We suggest implementing technology where it **supports our primary purpose** of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers
2. We are responsible and assess value when using **self-support** funds for technology initiatives
3. We are responsible where **anonymity** is more vulnerable to a wider audience with increased speed or new sensation
4. An **informed** group conscience is paramount to technology decision-making
5. We strive to understand where **Individual** versus **Group** values are different
6. We perform due diligence and rely on demonstrable A.A. **experience**
7. We record non-technical **requirements** before making technology choices
8. We take care to understand the **property value** and **legal** implications of technology used for A.A. purposes before making binding decisions
9. We are responsible for **transparency** in discovery, process, & implementation
10. We use technology to make information **available**, not to limit it
11. We consider how best to **Pass it On**
12. ... (Keep it Simple)

*All that just for my Area's  
Website?*

# Areas of Scope (v2)

- Communication
  - E-mail / Fax
  - Phones / Devices
  - Remote work / Broadcast
- Content
  - Web / Cloud
  - Publishing / Documents
  - Multi-lingual
  - Retention / Recording / Retrieval
- Software Applications
  - Programming
  - Design / Usability
- Information Security
  - User / Password / Identity
  - Encryption
  - Intellectual Property / Copyrights
- Operations
  - Monitoring
  - Maintenance
  - Storage / Hosting
- Management
  - Committees
  - Contracts
  - Vendors
  - Projects
- Systems
  - Inventory
  - Connectivity
- Support
  - Inter-committee
  - Member users
  - Non-member users



# Technology Value

## 12 Step... *Efficiency, Synergy, & Innovation*

- Functionality (Provide New)
- Self-service
- Ease of use
- Low cost
- Reusability
- Transparency
- Accessibility
- Convenience / Availability
- Speed
- Integration
- Reliability
- Security
- Modernity
- Ubiquity (Cross-platform)
- Guarantees
- Attractiveness
- Popularity
- Automation
- Search-ability (Data Accessible)

# Goal #2

Establish the National AA Technology Workshop

Parallels in function to the National AA Archives Workshop:

*“We share information, methods, procedures, ethics, and our enthusiasm at each Workshop as we continue to gather, grow, and serve.” ~ [www.aanationalarchivesworkshop.com](http://www.aanationalarchivesworkshop.com)*

## Track 1: Service

- Inter-committee Work
- Traditions
- Steering

## Track 2: Technical

- Geekery
- Mayhem
- Sharing Experience

In all of its actions, the ~~Archives~~ **Technology** committee needs to be guided by A.A.'s primary purpose. Thus, if non-A.A. friends are asked to serve on the committee, which may be desirable due to their interest and special knowledge or expertise, they ought to be people who are thoroughly familiar with our primary purpose, as well as all of our A.A. Traditions.

Sometimes it may be necessary to seek outside professional help to ensure the integrity of ~~an item~~ **technology service**...

...it takes a considerable amount of time to become familiar with ~~a collection of historical~~ **technology** information. Therefore, it is recommended that the ~~archivist~~ **technologist** not rotate frequently. Some areas choose to appoint non-rotating ~~archivists~~ **technologists** who hold the position for many years.

# Mission

The National AA Technology Workshop (NAATW) is committed to helping Alcoholics Anonymous service workers who are also bound by the spiritual principles of our Fellowship to...

- demonstrate and share technology related **experience**, strength, and hope with each other
- provide a **consistent** interface to the fellowship on technology and assist members where practical
- provide a useful medium for willing members and non-member friends with specific **technical expertise** to help A.A.
- **serve other A.A. service groups or committees** with their technology concerns

# Workshop History

- ✓ 2012 AAWS ad-hoc Technology Team formed 4/2
  - ✓ Recognized the need for tech discussion within the fellowship at regional forums.
- ✓ 2012 Southeast Regional Forum - Boca Raton, FL 11/9
  - ✓ First Forum Workshop
- ✓ 2013 Pacific Region AA Service Assembly - Boise, ID 3/1
  - ✓ First Regional Service Event Workshop
- ✓ 2013 Northeast Regional Forum - Cromwell, CT 6/8
- ✓ 2013 West Central Regional Forum - Bloomington, MN 9/7
- ✓ 2013 Southwest Regional Forum - Oklahoma City 10/12
- ✓ 2013 Intergroup Manager's Seminar - Palm Springs 10/26
  - ✓ First discussion with Intergroup service workers

*On To The Workshop!*

# Topics Ideas

- A. What Principles should come before Personalities when dealing with Technology?
  
- B. How can we apply the Traditions to arrive at an *Informed Group Conscience* on Technology issues?
  
- C. Would your local service organization want experience or suggestions to inform group conscience discussions and bylaws?