

# AA and Advancing Technologies

2013 West Central Regional Forum

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Bloomington, MN

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# eTech Team

*Who?*

- *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”*
- *Here to help regarding TECHNOLOGY*

# eTech Team

*What, Why?*

- Help Technology conversation across all regions
- Goal: Establish a “National AA Technology Workshop”

Currently envisioned as similar to the National AA Archives Workshop. As Archives does theirs, we see ours as an area of service that may be helped by members with specific expertise.

# Technology Service Scope?

Emerging service area to be defined by those trusted servants who participate. Suggestions:

*Internet, fax, remote work, software, computer systems, web hosting, desktop publishing, e-mail, data retention, social networking, mobile devices and apps, wireless, audio and video equipment, programming, etc.*

Principles & Responsibility (for Technology)

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

# Relevant Areas of Scope

- 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

# Statement of Purpose

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

*Technology Statement #1:*

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

~ Brouck H, 2011

# 12 Statements of Technology (v1)

1. The measure of technology value is its support of 12 Step progress
2. Always strive to find a "High" financial value point for assessment
3. We value technology experience
4. Propagating technology for its own ends is not an AA purpose
5. Alignment to AA "informed" group conscience is paramount
6. We should strive to understand where the values for Individuals and for groups are different
7. Anonymity is vulnerable to a wider audience with increased speed and new sensation
8. Technical and Non-technical requirements should be gathered before implementing technology solutions
9. Care should be taken to understand the property value and legal implications of technology used for AA purposes

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.



# History

- ✓ April 2012 AAWS ad-hoc Technology Team formed
  - ✓ 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

On To The Workshop!

# Possible Topics

- 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?

Examples:

- Suggestions to adopt Statement #1 to be considered when making decisions regarding the use of technology.
- Suggestions to create or add to a service position that would act as a delegate for this new area of discussion.