

AA and Advancing Technologies

2013 East Central Regional Forum
November 16th @8:30PM
Fort Wayne, IN

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eTech Team

Who, What, Why?

- *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*

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

HOW?

New Service Opportunity?

Problem:

***We seem to have exhausted our ability
to deliver Advancing Technologies***

A.A.'s Legacy of Service Bill W. (1951)

- Our Twelfth Step - **carrying the message** - the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives
- ...but one question: **“Is this service really needed?”** If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission

~ Service Manual S1

“...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

Goal #1: Investigation

Determine the need

- Are we the only ones who care?
- What resources are available?
- Connect across the fellowship with technology workers

Delivery Problems

- Requests for technical solution have become more **complex** than ever before
- Q: Can we reduce the **duplication** of efforts?
- Our **model** for implementing technology is as varied as the number of groups we have
 - Nobody has been “asked” to provide **central services**: Upside-Down Organization
 - We have not agreed to the **requirements**
 - How would we **fund** them if we did?
- Little **trust** that AA can produce adequate technology

Management Problems

- No role in AA for focusing on technology
- Service may require Special Knowledge
- How to share experience of a technical nature
- No common language for sharing experience
- Slow implementation and long delivery lifecycle is way behind the always changing technology market

Three Pillars of Innovation

- **Desirability**
 - Is there a “NEED”? Is it useful?
- **Feasibility**
 - Can we afford it? Does it Assess well?
 - Can we create it? Are we capable?
- **Viability**
 - Can we maintain it? Can we pass it on?
 - Can we support it? Are we self-supporting?

Goal #2: Definition

Help define Technology Service in A.A.

- What is the scope of work?
- How to be effective?

What We Found

To be defined by those *trusted servants who participate*.

There is no *Shared Experience* on how to do this.

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

→ eTech *Suggestion*: 12 Statements of Technology

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)

What we do NOT do

- Create software to **SOLVE** all AA's problems
- Create a central IT group to **DECIDE** things
- Provide a **LIST** of “conference approved” technologies and vendors
- Do the job of **EXISTING** AA Service committees
- Tell AA groups the **CORRECT** way... what their requirements should be

What we DO do

- Encourage sharing of solutions that prove useful and related **EXPERIENCE**
- Suggest roles to focus on this area of **SERVICE**
- Trust our **TRUSTED SERVANTS**
- Offer experience to AA Service **COMMITTEES**
- Evolve deeper service **GUIDELINES** and insights applying our **TRADITIONS**

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Case: Experience

RE: St. Joseph County Multi-Districts: www.sjcmd.org

- **BEFORE:** Our Districts were coming back from inactivity
- **TODAY:** 21 people at last month's meeting serving 8 Districts: GSRs, DCMs, Committee Chairs, etc.

Tech Solution: *Create a Web Site of Meetings in the Districts*

- foster improved communication between the groups
- carry the message

~ Randy J ~

Statement #7: Requirements

- Got an old copy of our listings in Excel and a member began updating the listings
- Q: How is this different from Intergroup's list?
- Main point is to find a service listing of all meetings
 - Group Numbers
 - Addresses
 - GSRs
 - Maps
- Concern: Affiliation w/ Google Sites (small logo)
- No special tools or knowledge of Web Development
- Issue: Content Accuracy → Web Servant

Members say they “love it!”

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

Areas of Scope (v2)

“Self-support”

- 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

Goal #3: First Thing's First

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

Track 1:

Using Technology in Service

- Inter-committee Work
- Traditions
- Steering

Track 2:

Creating Technology for Service

- Geekery
- Mayhem
- Shared Experience

Purpose Statement

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

Mission

Work in progress...

The National AA Technology Workshop is committed to helping Alcoholics Anonymous to help the still suffering alcoholic where less technological alternatives may be limited.

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
- ✓ 2013 East Central Regional Forum - Fort Wayne, IN 11/16

Next Steps...

- Produce NAATW.org website
- Form Guidance / Host Committee
- Call for Topics / Speakers

On To The Sharing!