The AA Grapevine ‘Keep-It-Simple’ Challenge

The AA Grapevine, Inc. is totally self-supporting and does not receive AA group contributions or income from advertising or membership fees.

Grapevine publications are financed entirely by the sales of the Grapevine magazine, Audio Grapevine, Digital Archive and other related books and CDs.

The magazines and all other items are never priced to earn a profit, but to cover basic operating expenses and to cover escalating fixed costs (such as postal increases of 40% over a 10-year period).

A Little Can Mean A Lot

100 new Grapevine magazine and/or Audio Grapevine subscriptions per area can assure that the AA Grapevine, Inc. is fully self-supporting in 2007.

What You Can Do to Help

If the Grapevine makes a difference in your sobriety, then please pass the word on by encouraging your area to increase its circulation this year by at least 100 subscriptions (that’s 7/10ths of one percent of our estimated 1.3 million members).

Please get the word out about this challenge by:

Announcing it at your home group, area assemblies, wherever you find AAs members and/or by

Posting this page in your newsletter, on your website, or at your local Inter Group or Central office.

It’s that simple.

We will keep you posted of the results of the ‘Keep-It-Simple’ challenge at www.aagrapevine.org beginning October 2007.

Although the date is from 2007, this challenge was given to us by a delegate at the 2009 General Service Conference. I say lets do it!
Greetings Area 42,

The results for the Archives survey is in, first I would like to thank everyone who filled out and turned back in a survey at the March Area 42 assembly. Caroline and I were very pleased with the amount we got back (145). We were also somewhat surprised with the very mixed results. Of those that replied 36.55% this was their first Area assembly and 56.52% have attended 4 or less. Those that are interested in A.A. history were 96.55% and those that would visit an Archives display throughout the Area were 93.79%. The top number one answer was books with photos close behind and at the bottom of the list was Event flyers with District records not too far away from that. Several surveys just had the boxes checked without a rank and some were just left blank, so we ranked these with the checked boxes at the top and the blank at the bottom. An important part of our job is to keep the Area records which came up about in the middle. It just seems that members are not interested in seeing them on display. There is an interest in individual stories (history) of members in the Area. This will be one of the things that we will focus on during our terms. There is a spreadsheet following this with all of the percentages.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Paul
Archive Survey Results

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First Assembly?  Yes: 53  No: 92
If No, How many? 4 and under: 52  5 thru 12: 22  13 thru 20: 6  21 and up: 10
Are you interested in AA History?  Yes: 140  No: 2  Somewhat: 1  Not answered: 2
Would you visit an Archives display at events throughout the Area?  Yes: 136  No: 4  Not answered: 5
Are you willing to volunteer?  Yes: 53  No: 85  Not answered: 7
Do you have anything you would like to donate?  Yes: 24  No: 113  Not answered: 8

Editor’s Note:
The Area 42 Newsletter is comprised of service oriented articles submitted by its members. We welcome submissions and suggestions. The deadline for the next newsletter is October 1st, 2009. Please submit to area42newsletter@gmail.com
The Bored Ones

If they're staying sober, don't worry about them. It's just too bad that they're missing most of the fun.

WHEN I first observed "the bored ones," they upset me. We had some in Texas, and there are a few here in Georgia. After reading the July 1969 and October 1969 Grapevines, I know California and New England have one or two. In our group, they are called inactive members. They show up only once in a while, but I can't argue with the fact that they have been sober, most of them for several years. I complained to one of my sponsors about a certain member of this sort. My sponsor set me straight (again!) by pointing out that it is "the bored ones" who are missing out. The old adage "You get out of anything what you put into it" holds true-plus for AA.

Twelfth Step work, telephone-answering service, speaking, chairing, transporting people to meetings, holding an office, emptying ashtrays, making coffee, and furnishing refreshments keep me enthusiastic. I get weary, but not bored. A Salvation Army captain said, "I've been in the Lord's service fifty-two years, and I've enjoyed every minute." I've been in AA's service five years, and I've enjoyed almost every second. When a person once spiritually dead, as I was, entertains that thought, it is another of the miracles that this Fellowship abounds in. This God-inspired program is a participating, not a spectator, sport. In crossing the valleys and hills of spiritual growth, we can expect a short dull stretch now and then. We are human. But I know of no other organization that offers as much opportunity for enthusiastic, zestful living as AA. There have been times when I have wanted to say to my friends outside the program, "Live a lot, get drunk, sober up, and be an anonymous alcoholic. You'll have a ball!"

The program offers many tools for overcoming dullness. When we are new, we are usually eager to communicate with everyone, because we might drink if we don't. Why stop just because time has passed? Telephone therapy can go on working for everybody; it certainly does for me.

Tired of drunkalogues? I have heard hundreds, many times told by the same individual over and over. I really listen, and I take home one new thought from each talk. I vary my meeting routine, and this helps. Among all these speakers, I can remember only two who were (in my opinion) boring. Neither gave a drunkalogue—unfortunately. (Why louse up a personal experience by talking about Second Century philosophy or, worse still, taking another's inventory?)

Another means of preventing boredom, for me, is going to retreats and AA conferences and conventions. If I had the time, energy, and financial resources, I'd go to every one. Guess that would get boring after a time. As it is, the anticipation of the trip, the participation in the event, and the afterglow (never any letdown) keep my thoughts occupied for many 24-hour periods.

Reading and studying AA literature and related spiritual literature are more than time-killers. They are time-fillers and benefit me greatly.

If the spiritual discipline of prayer and meditation ever became a bore for me, then I'd be in trouble. The only "must" in the Big Book says that one must grow spiritually or drink again. I presume this means me.

My drinking was a drag. The same horrible things happened over and over again. My experience was not unique; other women have told me what a drag their drinking was. Sobriety is a whole new scene. Each day, God puts people and events into my life that I had never even read about before AA. God as I understand Him has a sense of humor. If I tend to get real serious, pompous, and bored, a sincere prayer to Him takes care of it all, and at the end of the day we have a good time talking it over when I offer my gratitude for another sober day and, most of all, for the sheer living that He gives me.

D.H.
Decatur, Georgia
Tonopah Motels

Spring Assembly is March 27, 28, & 29th 2009
Hi-Desert Best Western (775-482-3511) $79.99 single/$89.99 double + Tax
Ramada Tonopah Station (775-482-9777) $65.00 single and/
or double($70.85 Including Sales Tax)
Jim Butler Motel (775-482-3577) 48.14 single / $56.14 double +Tax
Silver Queen Hotel (775-482-6291) ~ $54.49 single/$65.39 double (including Sales Tax)
National 9 (775-482-8202) $42.82 single / $49.23 double
(including sales Tax)
Economy Inn (775-482-6238) $35.00 single / $39.00 double +Tax
The Clown Hotel (775-482-5920) $34.50 single/$36.50 double +Tax

These rates were quoted in January 2009
They are subject to change.

Jim Butler is usually pretty well booked.
The Best Western is “flexible” for “walk-ins”