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# OA GUIDELINES

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## Suggested Guidelines For Writing The History of Your Local OA Area

Like the OA program itself, the material that follows is neither ground rules nor the law. It is offered as suggestions only, guides to aid you in deciding what information to collect.

We invite any and all of you to participate with us—to the extent practical and desirable—in gathering copies of your own area's memorabilia which will make your region or group history files here at WSO more complete, and allow historians and scholars, as well as OA visitors from around the OA world, to gain a broader perception and appreciation of the whole OA history. Anonymity and confidentiality will be carefully protected.

### ■ On a personal level:

How did you get to OA?

Where did you first hear about OA?

Did you have a sponsor? If so, how did it help you as a newcomer?

What contributions did you make to the Fellowship's growth (please don't be modest)?

### ■ The birth of OA in your area:

When was OA started in your town or area? Where were the first meetings held (homes, churches, etc.)?

Who was responsible for starting the group? Which early members contributed to the growth and success of the group? How was it started? As an offshoot of a parent group, a split from the first or main group, or one person starting the group?

What was OA like in the early days in your area?

How were new members contacted? How was Twelfth-Step work done?

Was the cooperation of local community agencies and professionals—ministers, doctors, etc.—looked into? ▶

Who were the founders and group officers of the early groups?

How often were meetings held and what kind of meeting format was used?

Were there any special problems that arose during the early years? Any growing pains?

Was your group ever given a name? What was it? Is it still the same? If it has been changed, what is the present name of the group?

Do you know how the first group was received by the community when it first started? Has it affected the community in any way in the years since?

Do you have an intergroup or central office in your area or community? Do you know when it started? How? By whom? Were there any problems?

Was there any opposition to OA or were there intergroup feuds in your area? Please elaborate.

Does your area sponsor OA events such as conventions, marathons, retreats, assemblies, etc.? When were they started, how often are they held, are they well attended?

Do you participate in state or regional get-togethers? Do other members from your area attend also?

Have you experienced growth in your group, in your area? Who approaches OA today: more young people, women, men, minorities? Are all welcome? Any special problems?

Do you celebrate individual and group anniversaries? How?

Is there O-Anon in your community?

How has OA changed, if it has, since you first encountered it?

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