

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

The following guidelines are offered as suggestions only; they are guides to aid you in deciding what information to collect.

We invite any and all of you to participate in recording your local history and in gathering local historical memorabilia. This will help ensure that your history is not lost. WSO invites you to submit your histories for safekeeping to allow historians and scholars, as well as OA visitors from around the world, to gain a broader perception and appreciation of OA history in different areas. Anonymity and confidentiality will be protected.

We suggest that the content and interpretation of local histories be approved by the group conscience of members involved in your area

### ■ 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?

Do you continue to have a sponsor?

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?

Did any special problems arise during the early years? Did the early groups suffer 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 community received the first group when it 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 or assemblies? When were they started? How often are they held? Are they well attended?

Do you participate in wider area 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? How has OA changed, if it has, since you first encountered it?

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#### OA Board-approved

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