

# AAGRAPEVINE, Inc.

## WRITING WORKSHOP GUIDELINES

### WORKSHOP TIPS

*You don't have to have had prior publishing experience. All you need is a little willingness and the desire to share. There are many ways to conduct a Grapevine writing workshop, the following are a few basic tips to get started:*

### PLANNING AHEAD

- *Invite GV Workshop participants with an announcement at a meeting, use a flyer or email, evite, phone call or text*
- *Provide a date and a time frame – one and a half to two hours is enough for a small gathering*
- *Choose a location with good lighting and ample seating*
- *Have plenty of pens and paper on hand for participants' use - unless computers or laptops will be used.*
- *Topics - A single topic can be used or each participant may choose their own topic. Some topic suggestions are included here: Newcomers, Emotional Sobriety, Sponsorship, Young & Sober, Old-Timers, Spiritual Awakening, Doing Service, Fun in Sobriety, My Favorite Slogan, My Home Group, Feeling Different, The Holidays, What's On Your Mind?, or write your experience with a certain Step or Tradition, or write jokes for "At Wit's End," or a letter for "Dear Grapevine"*
- *Think about inviting someone who has had a story accepted by GV to share their experience briefly for inspiration*

### THE DAY OF THE WORKSHOP

- *Choose a leader to guide the group through the process*
- *Have participants introduce themselves*
- *Give a timeline such as: 30 minutes for reading or sharing for inspiration, 30 minutes for writing and the remainder of the time for participants to read their stories to the group if they wish. It's good to plan for a little break somewhere along the way, too.*
- *Give a copy of the guidelines to everyone or read them out loud*
- *Offer possible topics for consideration. Here are just a few (or make up some of your own)...*

- • *My first 90 days*
- *Sponsoring others*
- *Getting to Step One*
- *Going back to school sober*
- *Talking to family about your sobriety*
- *My first job sober*
- *How I got into General Service*
- *My favorite service commitment*
- *My favorite Step—and why*
- *Fun times in Sobriety*
- *What got me into AA?*
- *How I deal with fear today*
- *What my sponsor taught me (something I'll never forget)*
- • *How I found my Higher Power*
- *My favorite part of the Big Book*
- *Going on your first date in sobriety*
- *People, places and things*
- *A 9th Step amend that changed my life*
- *My sober morning routine*
- *How I pray or meditate*
- *How I've changed in sobriety over the years*
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- *NOTE: We are always looking for experiences of each individual Step and Tradition. We run one every month. Pick a Step or Tradition and write about your experience with it.*
- *You might want to begin by reading a story out of the Grapevine or have someone who has written a story share about their experience*
- *Look at some of the stories in Grapevine, see how they are written, how they begin and end*
- *Start all participants writing for an agreed amount of time*
- *Maybe ask participants to read some of what they wrote, share with the group*
- *Collect the stories (you might want to make copies before sending them to GV). IMPORTANT: If you don't finish, please take your story home and finish it. Send it in to [aagrapevine.org/share](http://aagrapevine.org/share) when you're done.*

## SUBMITTING THE STORIES

Upload your stories at [www.aagrapevine.org/share](http://www.aagrapevine.org/share)

(or you may send the stories to: [gveditorial@aagrapevine.org](mailto:gveditorial@aagrapevine.org))

Or mail to: Grapevine Editorial Department)

475 Riverside Drive, Room 1264

New York, NY 11015

## GUIDELINES FOR WRITING and SUBMITTING YOUR STORY

Please take a look at **Grapevine's Guidelines for Contributing to Grapevine** ([www.aagrapevine.org/share](http://www.aagrapevine.org/share)) to give you information on how to write and submit your stories to the magazines.

If you don't feel like writing your story, you can always submit your photographs, illustrations or cartoons to Grapevine at the address above. We are always looking for member art.

Or try the

**Grapevine Audio Project** or put on a  
**Record Your Story Workshop**

For more information visit [www.aagrapevine.org/audio-portal](http://www.aagrapevine.org/audio-portal)

GRAPEVINE magazine and website are primarily made up of stories from members of the Fellowship.

Your stories make it possible for Grapevine to carry the message to everyone interested in alcoholism through its magazine, website and other items and to reflect the experience, strength and hope of members and friends on topics related to unity, recovery and service.

Become a part of this living history by writing your story for Grapevine, either the print magazine or the website.

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