

WEBMASTER GUIDES

INTRO

As I agreed at the business meeting last evening, I attach here a few suggestions and tips for the new group webmaster:

INITIALLY

The new webmaster ideally will be a regular attender at ROH meetings with at least 2 years' continuous sobriety.

He/she will have a fairly good working knowledge of the following:

- 12 Steps
- 12 Traditions
- 12 Concepts
- P.I.C.P.C. (Based upon our third legacy)
- AA Guidelines
- The structure of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous

SUGGESTED DAILY ROUTINE

- Log into the site and check for any messages to the help line
- Check Google Analytics to see if there are any notices or items that need dealing with
- Where applicable, respond to any inquiries from the public or messages for assistance. This should not be left for later. Treat it as priority.
- Check with group secretary if there are any notices or information that needs to be posted for the benefit of the members of the group.

SUGGESTED WEEKLY ROUTINE

- Check latest news from region and GSO to see if there is any information that might be of use to the ROH membership that could be posted on the site.
- Encourage ROH members to use the site in order to increase its exposure on the WWW.
- Ensure the group telephone number as advertised on the web site is operational.

SUGGESTED MONTHLY ROUTINE

- Check out the Google Analytics data for the site and feed-back this information to the group.
- Review international and regional items of interest (conventions, conferences, gatherings, etc.) and post useful links etc. on the web for member's use.
- Check out all the links provided on the site to ensure they are not now using advertising for commercial gain.
- Check through the WWW where the website URL may have been posted and linked ensure it's up to date.(For example the AAWS web site link, UKAA website link, etc etc.)

WHAT DOES A.A SAY ABOUT LOCAL WEBSITES?

A.A. WEBSITES— SETTING UP A LOCAL WEBSITE Decisions in the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous are usually made through an informed group conscience and the decision to create a website is no different.

Whether area or district, central office or intergroup, A.A. experience suggests forming a committee to discuss all aspects of the project, including all possible concerns about the Traditions.

Unless password-protected and for members only, an A.A. website is a public medium, and, therefore, requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio, and film.

Early on, it is important to agree upon a method for establishing the group conscience that represents the local A.A. community, and for informing local groups, districts and central/intergroup offices in an area (if affected) about the committee's progress.

When the committee has reached a consensus about its role and responsibilities and the scope of the website, its findings are shared with the whole body (district, area, etc.) and a decision is made through an informed group conscience vote on whether to move ahead with the development of a website.

As part of this process, committees may wish to bring technical questions to experts in the field.

A guiding resource of shared A.A. experience regarding websites is the G.S.O. service piece "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A. Websites."

VIEWPOINT FROM A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

Whomsoever in the group takes on this service position, it must be recognized that it is precisely that -a service to the ROH group.

This person will experience weekends, holidays, sickness etc – just like everyone does.

So how does the "web-service person" cope with these things and still maintain the site?

As with every other service position, this does of course depend upon the individual. Does he/she ignore the call for help until after the weekend break, the holiday or whenever they are well again?

No of course not. That would be a dis-service The show must go on. (And it has gone on so far without a break). And so the "web-service person" has to be resourceful enough to handle such eventualities.

But can things continue this way?

This whole matter should (I think), really be discussed in depth by an informed Group Conscience Meeting.

Perhaps the group may wish to reconsider its position on the concept of a GROUP WEBSITE.

Is it really necessary to the group or are we merely feeding our ego that we have a group web site?

How many in the group really find it useful? To what extent do current ROH member use the site?

We are in fact a group with (currently) an average attendance of less than 8 persons/meeting over the year. Does this justify our ambitions? **What are our ambitions anyway?**

There are certainly other less costly ways in which we can make ourselves known to the local and international community.

Ways that would entail less of a constant commitment to any individual member or the group as a whole.

Of course, we are committed as a group to pay up for what we already have started. But it does not have to be this way indefinitely.

I am posting this on a private page on the web where you can view it.

As always, my comments are MY OWN and not that of the group.

My intention is to serve and not to direct the thoughts or personal views of ANYONE.

If you have any comments may I suggest that you take them to the ROH Group Secretary for any follow up.

As with every other matter where the AA point of view is of vital importance, the following file on Internet protocols can be found here ... http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/mg-18_internet.pdf

If YOU are interested in this service position I might suggest you read it. It contains some important and useful suggestions and guidelines.

Finally.

If you have taken the time to read this note and wish to comment to me directly, then please feel free to do so. I'm always available.

Yours in fellowship and service.....Doug 3rd October 2016