

# E-AA Inventory 2011 Group Questions

**2007 Inventory:** [http://www.e-aa.org/inv/2007/2007\\_summary.html](http://www.e-aa.org/inv/2007/2007_summary.html)

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## Question 1

1. What is the basic purpose of the group?

Summary: The Majority feel that we are here as an online 24 hour version of AA with the purpose of carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous, with emphasis on commitments through various service responsibilities. Emphasis was suggested that this not replace face to face meetings and provide information in that respect.

Concerns were cheerleading, and group therapy, or back patting. Are we carrying AA's message or a watered down version of our own message? If so how can we rectify it?

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## Re # 1 Question 1

The purpose of this group is to provide an online venue to help the still sick and suffering alcoholic by sharing our experience strength and hope through e-mail meetings, a Forum's list thread discussion, and real time chat room meeting, as well as recovery fellowship before and after meetings.

We try to carry the message of AA and help newcomers to the program understand the steps, provide sponsorship through online temporary sponsors, and help newcomers understand how meetings work in a face to face environment. Personally I always suggest they go to face to face and use this as a supplement and not as an alternative, should they have the means.

## Re # 1 Question 1

The Fifth Tradition tells us that each group is to be a "spiritual entity". In the spiritual entity matter, I think each of us needs to consider putting thought into what we, as individuals, bring to the group to maintain that entity. Are we placing emphasis on this, as individuals and as a group? Or are we putting the emphasis on group therapy and cheerleading one another? Are we clear on what AA is and isn't?

Also, each group is to carry "its" message. This tells me that not only are we autonomous, but also that we, as an autonomous group, have an obligation to identify and maintain this group's message. Are we fulfilling that obligation? Or, are we acting as a collection of individuals, each with a distinctly different view on what this group represents as "its" message and carrying it in our own manner?

I don't pose these observations and questions to be critical. I pose them to perhaps stimulate

some thought that may lead to constructive discussion which can help solidify the group and provide a firm direction in which to move.

### **Re # 1 Question 1**

It looks like a worldwide, accessible venue, which is to carry the message of AA to the alcoholic who still suffers, either directly or indirectly. As stated in our caveat "or wish to learn more about AA", we encourage curiosity as potential desire to be a member and/or as an open door in sharing our experience, strength and hope.

The basis of this group is an introduction so to speak or re-entry to the philosophy and family of 12 Step Fellowships. Another basic purpose of this group is AA Fellowshiping and personal support, through an accessible venue any time of day. Furthermore, this group's purpose could be for the continued growth and expression of all members in attendance at any of our discussions or meeting formats. Also, it is important to progress towards Unity with AA's primary purposes that will hopefully unite one day to become part of AA World Service.

And yes, there are by times "hidden agenda" and covert dealings, sore toes etc that detract from our primary purpose. Yet group autonomy, such as this Inventory, tends to right this problem, if the misunderstanding continues, that usually boils down to Bill's old edict: "Let's be careful, lest we put "better" in the place of "best"."

### **Re # 1 Question 1**

I agree with all the input and do believe that the primary purpose of this group is to acquaint the first time and often frightened individual to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. To provide a venue for questions that the confused individual and potential newcomer may have about the program of AA; to give precise and correct information, which may or may not be from the member's individual experience, such as the lack of power to control drinking, the allergy of the body and the obsession of the mind.

It is important also to give information as to where the meetings are held in their area and stress the importance of face to face meetings. I think I am repeating what others have said, however it is always good to know that we are all on the same page.

### **Re # 1 Question 1**

Yes, to provide an area for questions for the confused and potential newcomer about the program of AA. To give correct information, which may (or may not) come from the member's individual experience. Also to include the lack of power to control drinking and the lack of power to control people places and things is addressed. It is also important to give information as to where the meetings are held in their area and stress the importance of face to face meetings. And to make sure they have full access to AA in all areas –face to face and online

### **Re # 1 Question 1**

For me, this group exists to facilitate what it's all about: one drunk talking to another.

### **Re # 1 Question 1**

To provide 24/7 contact with recovery for a 24/7 drunk... no matter what our sobriety date.

### **Re # 1 Question 1**

Help via the internet, reaching out online.

### **Re # 1 Question 1**

I would hope it is to stay sober ourselves, and help other alcoholics, regardless of DOS.

### **Re # 1 Question 1**

Our primary purpose is to help other alcoholics stay sober. And in so doing I find that I stay sober. Together we stay sober. In the case of this group we are online AA. In the years that I have been hanging around, some have said that we should send people to face to face AA. While I am privileged to be in an area in America with a number of face to face meetings to choose from, many are not so fortunate. Some live in remote areas. Or perhaps others are house bound for some reason. So, we are cyber AA group helping other alcoholics stay sober, Period. To say that we as an online group are here to channel people to face to face AA marginalizes online AA.

I think that this fits here. One of the great things about this group is the way that we welcome newcomers. While I appreciate the public welcomes and birthday greetings, I understand that the volume of e-mail that results can be challenging and overwhelming, especially for some of our trusted servants. In that spirit, I think that we as a group might need to address ways to reduce e-mail clutter. For those who are paying attention, I have edited this post taking out my earlier comments.

### **Re # 1 Question 1**

The basic purpose of e-AA is to carry its message to the alcoholic, worldwide, who still suffers. e-AA pursues this purpose by providing sponsorship, studies and fellowship opportunities through e-mail, Forums and real time chat events. e-AA carries a high level of self-regulation in order to preserve good quality within its environments. Additionally, e-AA seeks to comply with all 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### **Re # 1 Question 1**

1. What is the basic purpose of the group?

The purpose is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still sick and suffering alcoholic, offer solutions, and to be supportive. I also recommend face to face meetings and a sponsor from those meetings. We can offer temporary support while the newcomer gets their feet wet.

Since I have been injured and am not able to sit for any length of time, this group has been instrumental in offering me a daily connection to AA. For this I am grateful.

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## **Question 2**

2. What more can the e-AA group do to carry the message?

**Summary: The Majority feel that we do a good job carrying the message. Concerns about non AA material, and again are we watering down the message? The possibility of different languages was also mentioned.**

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## **Re # 2 Question 2**

2. What more can the e-AA group do to carry the message?

I think right now it is doing a good job - the greeters especially bring people right in. And there is always someone posting to list or replying to any questions or from anyone just joining or those who are already on the list. Am just hoping they can get more into the service area of online AA.

## **Re # 2 Question 2**

For me, there are two messages, and I do not see how anything can really be done, since we are all members of AA if we say we are. But the kind of "anything goes", "take what you want, in other words, trash the big book if you disagree, is a dangerous message and it seems to be more from folks who came in less than 10 years ago. What I have noticed, is a lot of outside material, such as 4th Step Guides from treatment centers are a pet peeve of mine. Good grief, have you ever tried to read one! The Big Book has worked for the last 75 years.

Frankly, I do not care what someone else does, but I do get bent when they swoop down on newcomers that really have not been to AA before and do not know what AA is. On the Women's Meeting we get a lot of flak by some self-appointed AA police types that get in a tizzy if newcomers are told the real horrors of alcoholism and the hopelessness of it if left untreated. It is more like group therapy than AA, and it seems more is placed on feelings that recovery e-mails are known to fly if you share in any way that is not approved by them.

I have been called a hard ass, a Big Book thumper and even a bully!! I am glad I have a thick skin! I found out how important that Big Book is by relapsing after 13 years, and my best thinking took me out AA teachings and a Higher Power keeps me in!

## **Re # 2 Question 2**

The Third Tradition assures everyone access to AA. It does not hand us any rights to misquote or rewrite the literature. I've heard that argument and I don't buy it.

## **Re # 2 Question 2**

In my face to face AA community we stress "AA approved" literature - exclusively. On the discussion forum the Hazelden issue the Thought for the Day is posted along with the AA approved Daily Reflections. Personally, because I know the difference, it does not bother me, as I read a lot of non-AA literature. However, I have found a lot of folks don't make the differentiation and it might dilute the AA message to the newcomer. Our Preamble says, "AA is not affiliated.

## **Re # 2 Question 2**

We can stop sweating the small stuff and remember that we are talking to people, not to computers.

## **Re # 2 Question 2**

What more can the e-AA group do to carry the message?

I am having trouble saying what is appropriate to the question and have deleted much of what I wrote last night. Yes, I think that we do a decent job of greeting and welcoming people.

Without going into necessary details, I will say that I do have long term sobriety (25+ years). But I know from experience in these rooms, both online and face to face that I am not what many expect. Don't get me wrong, I love the Steps and Tradition. I love our literature as well. Let's just say that some of you might be wary of me because there are some who will say that people like me have watered down AA and you will want to keep the ones you are sponsoring away from me. I get that and I see that dynamic in my face to face meetings. Of course, if the culture if you will, of a meeting is to take folks through the Steps by the letter of the Big Book you will not want me as a sponsor.

I suppose what I am trying to say is that what works for me in face to face AA does not work for me in online AA. I struggle with what to share and not share. I struggle because all you see is what I write. You can't see me as you can in a face to face meeting. If I am quiet and lurking on an e-mail list, of course you aren't going to know I am there. I am not always certain if my Experience Strength and Hope, what I have to offer, is welcome and appropriate for e-AA. I don't always know why, since I struggle here in e-AA, why I continue to hang around. But I do.

I don't know what e-AA can do to make it easier for people like me. Perhaps this is an inherent limitation in the online venue.

This was added on Aug. 21. I reread my share. I think that on the whole, e-AA, does a good job of carrying the message. Perhaps there are aspects of online AA that do not work well for me and because of that I may fail at carrying the message. Thank goodness there are lots of you around for whom online AA does work well and you are carrying the message.

## **Re # 2 Question 2**

e-AA seeks out the still suffering alcoholic through the World Wide Web. In order to serve as broad a base as possible e-AA could seek a better positioning on most commonly used search engines. e-AA is listed on the Online Inter-Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. (OIAA)

The real-time meeting schedule is centered on the Eastern Standard Time of the United States of America. English speaking fellows on the western side of the Pacific Ocean, New Zealand/Australia could better be served with availability of meetings convenient in their respectful time-zones.

e-AA does not currently offer any services in languages other than English but does however guide speakers of other languages to the online Inter-Group website which contains links to online meetings in different languages.

## **Re # 2 Question 2**

I am also very satisfied with the way this group has been run.

A good point is how do we reach out to other than English speaking alcoholics? This is something that may be more important as we continue to grow.

## **Re # 2 Question 2**

2. What more can the e-AA group do to carry the message?

We could keep an open mind and use love & tolerance as our guide in our posts and interactions with each other. Meet the newcomer or prodigal son, where they are, and not having to conform to some artificial judgment. In addition, we can suffer the sufferer, to come into the fold -warts and all. Our belief in the Steps and the process could do it... once more responsible citizens, why the bum's rush?

There's plenty of time for the working Steps to do their magic, and will remove these potential defective characters on their own. Each member can grow at their own pace, and in their own conscience, without having to struggle with Compliance verses Surrender or giving them something to "blame". No wonder some posts get testy and hurt people, or worse, DNS, because of some paranoid delusion about people being "bad" for AA. Culling members, compelling obedience, rulemaking benders are essentially the tools of the uninitiated to the methods of AA, still at odds with their own dilemma - and blaming others for it.

I recall the old saying, "I cried for Justice, when what I really needed was Mercy."

Can't we offer the love & tolerance on the face of it - anyone anywhere, reaching out? And not abuse them for having some dirt on their face, offensive smell, or otherwise not acceptable to society.

To allow them the same dignity we were allowed, in making the changes for ourselves?

## **Re # 2 Question 2**

I believe e-AA does a great job here, by being solid as an online experience and encouraging face to face participation.

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## **Question 3**

3. Is the e-AA group attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community?

**Summary: The majority feels being the World Wide Web; we do indeed attract any and all sorts from every race, gender, creed, and country.**

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## **Re # 3 Question 3**

Being an online group with access to millions of people worldwide, I certainly feel we attract people from all backgrounds, areas, and countries, probably more so than localized face to face meetings would.

### **Re # 3 Question 3**

For sure - as said by someone else being on the www we have no choice but to reach a great variety of nationalities and countries. We may not see each other face to face but we reach or have the ability to reach 100 plus more than face to face since face to face deals with one area at a time. One meeting on the World Wide Web can be accessed by people all across the world as long as they have access to online

### **Re # 3 Question 3**

Yes- I think we do. I think one of the HUGE advantages of online AA is that we don't "see" each other at first no judgment. We meet people through their words not their looks, nationality, culture, dress, etc. I had an AA friend who was about 6'4" weighed about 400lbs plus she took me to a few boutique shops so I could see firsthand how she was treated it was awful. She couldn't handle the steps to the basement of churches for meetings.

On the flip side we lack the communication tools of face to face here body language, facial expression, and tone of voice, hugs and grins and sometimes that is a problem. I think more and more of us are becoming more comfortable online and AA will continue to grow here and everywhere. I live in an area where sadly I will not attend a lot of the night time meetings that I did 10 years ago-it's a gamble I don't need areas of violence all year round I have online and I didn't get sober to get stupid.

### **Re # 3 Question 3**

Yes, I am sure we do. I have made several e-pals from the 12 Step help. As well as when I was temp sponsor gal I was e mailing from a number of countries and we have folks from all walks of life. In this, we get A-plus!

### **Re # 3 Question 3**

I think the "good cross-section" is strengthened by the registered user/IP address enforcement. Other sites that don't have that allow the same "voice" a different name, Characters. Somehow that duplicity feels dishonest and does not promote Fifth Tradition.

### **Re # 3 Question 3**

Remember our community is the online community. This is a group of its own to begin with. Are we seeing a good cross-section? We see them but do they stay, not finding others like them? How do we recruit that good cross-section into the serving members of our group, is the question.

### **Re # 3 Question 3**

I am relatively new to e-AA. I find that there is a cross section on people in the chat room, attending meetings and in the Women's List. The cross section is delineated by nationality, economics, health, religious beliefs and geographic location. I have met people from all walks of life. Therefore, I feel that e-AA does represent and attract a cross-section of recovering alcoholics with lots of sobriety and others looking for a way to achieve sobriety.

### **Re # 3 Question 3**

We are definitely attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds, but it does take a while to

figure it out. That is the joy of online; we get to know people by the way they type (!!), and then getting to meeting getting to know them. We do have a good cross section coming in and out and from all over the world. May it remain so?

### **Re # 3 Question 3**

3. Is the e-AA group attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community?

For me, one of the strengths of e-AA is that we have folk here from around the world, and I suspect from different racial and ethnic backgrounds as well. I have learned things in e-AA because of our diversity that I could not learn in my face to face meetings.

### **Re # 3 Question 3**

Except for ethnicity (which is difficult to judge) I believe e-AA does attract alcoholics from different sexual, religious, economic and political background. The only group to have a separate venue within e-AA is the ladies. No-one is excluded from any other environment within e-AA.

The groups that are currently not served by e-AA are Alcoholics without access to the World Wide Web and alcoholics who are unable to comprehend the English language sufficiently.

### **Re # 3 Question 3**

Is the e-AA group attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community?

I think part of this, involves a rethink of what our AA community is. So many of us, perhaps, have been brought up in AA with local tradition so much at the base, that we are appalled at how someone from another locality may practice theirs.

I've been coming to online meetings regularly now, more than 11 years. I know that in AA each group has its own personality, expressed in its message. That's why we join different AA groups that may be in the same community. Not a lot different than online attempts and now emerging, online service structure.

So, it's been quite a journey seeing it's almost impossible to carry on an AA conversation, during the chat between meetings. Some have no knowledge of Traditions, except the liquid kind, and the ASL traditional gambit, and many more distractions, sometimes almost comical tantrums, to now, having regular group inventory, thus on the verge of a recognized service structure to have no other affiliation.

We are at the forefront of what may well be "new hope for a new generation" as AA was predicted to be, when first publicized. The community is vast, and varied. Our only requirement can be their desire to stop drinking, our common cause.

There's almost a virtual bridge here, direct connection, eager newcomer and wizened old-timer to give it all away. Both of whose paths would never cross in face to face, because of their circumstances. Further to the message of AA, one hand washing the other.

When I go to an online site, even one I haven't visited in a few days. I often pretend I'm going to an out-of-town meeting. That way, any difference in custom, is to my eyes and not an affront to my AA. Then, I can marvel again at the wonder that is AA. Keep an Open Mind.

Inclusive is not exclusive, but a mutual effort. I need to let the process happen, not "make" it so.

### **Re # 3 Question 3**

I don't know if I can answer that, since we are all coming from a computer. It would seem to me that there is some sort of a higher economic background that would have access of a computer. For instance, how would a homeless person get here, unless they go to a library? Or how would a person from a village with no power be able to access us?

### **Re # 3 Question 3**

From what I gather in the chat, email, and discussion Forums, I see a great mix of people.

### **Re # 3 Question 3**

3. Is the e-AA group attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community?

I would say that we do attract a wide cross section.

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### **Question 4**

4. Does each area of the e-AA group let new members know about all other areas of the group, to include chat, Forums, e-mail meetings? And how can we do this better?

**Summary: Most feel that improvement is needed with various suggestions.**

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### **Re # 4 Question 4**

Currently - Let's talk - takes a newcomer to a relatively small, brief description of each venue

1. E-mail recovery meeting to include one small link "sober mail"
2. Chat meetings and virtual Fellowship Hall (three small links, "chat rooms", "Registration", "Meeting Schedule")
3. Discussion Forums (one small link "discussion forums")

Perhaps, we could consider little bit of a design change and make the links bigger, bolder, and possibly a graphic button. Also, the general e-mail to Members List of the Chat Schedule could also include a reminder of the different venues.

We might add two links from Forums (In the header) one to open a new window of the Chat's current day's Meeting Schedule, and one to open a new window to the e-mail meeting list.

Chat venue could add similar links to the other venues, and e-mail meetings could do a scheduled, auto email reminder, with links, of all venues.

#### **Re # 4 Question 4**

I also think graphics for links (as on our home page) added to the header in the discussion forum would be helpful to move around within e-AA. In the email meetings, as mentioned previously, the auto emails periodically would help, and perhaps adding the links to the "greetings" letter sent to a member when they join a particular email list, letting the new member of the other venues, in case they aren't aware already. i.e. <http://www.e-aa.org/talk.php>

#### **Re # 4 Question 4**

I'm currently the greeter for the 12&12 e-mail meeting and I do not mention the Forums or chat rooms. It never occurred to me, though I should have.

#### **Re # 4 Question 4**

I agree with the need for more clear graphics. I am quite new to e-AA and fumbled around a bit and still have not managed to navigate the site with ease. Is there a way to see a drop-down list, while hovering over a link? That would allow for 1 link to show many options available at that link.

I was well greeted and assisted with all my questions in e-AA!!! I only hope that soon I will be helping other navigate the options here!

#### **Re # 4 Question 4**

In my case it has taken years to become familiar with "all" areas, and I am sure I am still on my way to learning. It's difficult for individual members to pass on the information that they may not have to begin with. But I think I was always aware of the other parts of e-AA thanks to the well-rounded presentation of the website. Ways to do it better. Keep up the rotation, trusted servants!!! Do something new each term.

#### **Re # 4 Question 4**

Well this is really my first foray into the Forums in two years! And have sampled the email lists, but I am still learning.

I do think that in the area I am part of mostly, (chat) that more emphasis should be made on all letting the newcomers know of all the areas that are available at e-AA. Some do and some don't. The members list and the temp sponsor list is probably the most discussed, but all areas should be mentioned, in my opinion, to all newcomers on a regular basis.

I feel that every option available should be offered and will I make a conscience effort to implement this in the future.

I think the same for all areas would be a good idea. I think cross advertising should be a staple and consider it important. All we have to offer should be made available and discussed.

#### **Re # 4 Question 4**

I can only speak of the e-mail meetings. As I understand someone posts a notice every day about the day's chat room meetings. Sometimes someone in an e-mail meeting will post to the e-mail

meeting about having trouble accessing the chat room. When that happens, someone will either help them out and/or refer them to the appropriate mechanism (e-mail or web link, I'm not sure) to help them get access. I am not sure how much mention is made on the e-mail meetings about the forums. But it is possible that I am not paying attention.

As for our let's talk webpage that others have referred to here, I'll defer to others comments about suggestions for improvements.

#### **Re # 4 Question 4**

Being mainly a user of the real-time environment I can only comment from this perspective. I believe this could better be encouraged by placing buttons on the screen which will take the user directly to the other areas of the group instead of via the "Let's Talk" button.

Upon registering for the chat room the welcome message did not contain this information. Maybe we could include it in the future.

#### **Re # 4 Question 4**

In meetings and chat I have observed members helping each other around the site and I learn something new nearly every day, I am not computer savvy

#### **Re: # 4 Question 4**

I believe there can be improvements in this area.

#### **Re # 4 Question 4**

There is no way we will ever please everyone on this issue. there will always be people who complain when we "advertise" our venues in meetings- I think we do a pretty good job of making sure newcomers know that we have a lot of options.

#### **Re # 4 Question 4**

4. Does each area of the e-AA group let new members know about all other areas of the group to include chat, Forums, e-mail Meetings? How can we do this better?

In chat newcomers are made aware of other areas, in particular email meetings and Sponsor link. They are directed to the various options available via Let's Talk link.

All areas should be cross referenced and readily accessible.

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#### **Question 5**

5. Do we emphasize the importance of sponsorship? How effectively? How can we do better?

**Summary: Most agree that we do a good job emphasizing sponsorship effectively with the importance of getting one being mentioned in all formats. Concerns were on our temporary sponsorship program and are we enabling others to not find a face to face sponsor? How effective is our temporary sponsor program and are we taking responsibility for the persons that sign up for it as sponsors? What are the criteria of the program?**

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## **Re # 5 Question 5**

I'm quite certain that our individual views on this topic will run the gamut. There are as many opinions on sponsorship as there are methods of sponsorship. I will try to be concise with my opinion and as non-inflammatory as I can while knowing there will be those that disagree with it.

First, I believe that facing the world we live in and our fears is an integral and important facet of recovery from alcoholism. Gaining realistic insight and a feel for those we live amongst is often paramount in creating the "psychic change" talked about as a key to our recovery.

I also fully understand the physical isolation that some of us live in, I'm a sailor at sea for months on end. But, I wonder if sending the message to newcomers with face to face resources available that it's not important to face other people as a part of their recovery is a viable message. I personally believe that online sponsorship when face to face sponsorship is available is a form of enabling isolationism and not nudging the newcomer into society. I believe it to be an "easier and softer" way that encourages the ones that most need to face society to not do so. I also believe it enables non accountability which is also something an alcoholic often needs to overcome.

Again, this opinion is not meant to inflame. But this alcoholic sees potential harm in not encouraging the newcomer to get acclimated to society at the earliest possible chance.

## **Re # 5 Question 5**

It is my understanding, that this group, e-AA, only offers temporary sponsorship. In my case, at my face to face home group, I used a temporary sponsor, which means being helpful for the first few months, the first Three Steps, and getting to know the program, fellowship and the beginning process.

My temporary sponsor, when we both felt the time was right, encouraged me to find a full on sponsor. So I agree, except in extreme isolation circumstances, that a face to face sponsor would be best. Certainly something I would pray about, on a case by case basis, for guidance and timing to make the move from a temporary sponsor on line to live face to face one.

## **Re # 5 Question 5**

I feel sponsorship is important, but I disagree with "finding a sponsor" for some one, and I used to do that very thing here. I came up in the old school AA, you got your own sponsor, not an assigned one. That is where I think some enabling can take place, if you have a list of folks willing, then great, give them the list and let them do the work.

Also there is supposed to be a higher power at work, and it is not us, folks! The newcomer is often so coddled and babied, it is no wonder when they get a sponsor that is not going to hold their hand and wipe their rear end, and they get ticked and run kicking and screaming. I think we need to let the newcomer do their own foot work, or else how will they ever learn to stand up? It is a process like everything else. There is nothing wrong with having an on-line sponsor if that sponsor is sharing the program of AA.

## **Re # 5 Question 5**

I think the group does emphasize the importance of sponsorship very well, but the importance of the sponsors as a guide to the Steps maybe not so much.

## **Re # 5 Question 5**

I certainly believe that should the resources be there for face to face sponsorship, and then by all means, get a face to face sponsor, same as face to face meetings.

Quite often I wonder if online enables some to hide behind a computer screen instead of getting to live meetings. I felt that way at first when coming here and fortunately I was persuaded to do just that after being here a short time. I certainly came here at first looking for an "easier softer way".

I am not fully aware of the criteria used here at e-AA as far as the temporary sponsor program but feel the criteria should be high. Do we put men with men, women with women, and do we know that they in fact are men and or women? Do we have a way of knowing in some way they are capable of sponsoring someone? How long do they continue doing this? Is there a criteria for length of service here at e-AA or membership or can anyone come in new and request to be added as a temporary sponsor simply by saying they have a lot of sobriety?

I know being online poses a real problem with this but feel we are assigning people's lives into another's hands, how well are we doing this?

I would think, if I did it, I would emphasise to a temporary newcomer/sponsee, that I would help them to the Third Step, and by then they would need to find a faced to face sponsor. Long term online sponsorship, saying to someone with no AA in their area is beyond me for some reason. I think there's something to say about the personal factor in sponsorship, eye contact, emotions, and hearing the voice of my sponsor.

I must add does this enable people to not look for one? The same goes for chat meetings. Often I feel it enables some to not go and try face to face meetings which would be sad to see anyone miss out on the wonderful fellowship. Online to me is a wonderful supplement to a live face to face program, not an alternative. This is just my opinion of course.

## **Re # 5 Question 5**

I like that in the Forward to the Fourth Edition of the big book it talks about on line AA being real AA, and I am not going to reprint it here, as it is there for anyone to read. For myself, I grow weary of folks saying if you do not go to face to face you are somehow hiding, or doing something un-program like and I respectfully disagree!

I have a busy life with two businesses to run, and for the last while have found it better for me on Women's Meeting and Women's Lounge. I do my service work there with the help line, it is my choice, which is one of the gifts AA has given me. I also have no problem with sponsoring someone longer than the first Three Steps, if it is working for both of us, and recovery is being shared, then that is fine, there are no rules! You know, what we do is share or personal experience, not write things in stone. I also, get ready now, have a male sponsor!! OMGOSH!! He has been my sponsor for a number of years and the reason he is my sponsor is because I like his program. He has been sober 20-plus years and is also a long time member of Al-anon. I also know his wife.

I think we get way off base in trying to put people in little boxes, we have so much more of life

if we follow our Higher Power's leadings and not what some other AA person thinks, myself included! I can get narrow-minded and God will have to come along and bang me up side of my head and get me out of myself and my little ideas on how I know what is best for everyone else, Just ask John, our talks are brief, and we might now talk for a week, but if I have a bee up my butt, he will listen to why it is "them" and then usually show me from the program why it is ME

### **Re # 5 Question 5**

I have been in quite a few online groups and so far this group has the best rating of encouragement to find a face to face sponsor. People sharing state it, people responding to something I shared state it. I think it is highly encouraged here. I do think this group tries it best to work like face to face meetings.

### **Re # 5 Question 5**

Yes, I do believe that we encourage sponsorship. However, I found my own sponsor(s) in AA. As I understand it, when a newcomer requests a sponsor, they do so through one of our web forms, I think and forgive me if I am mistaken; they are matched up with a sponsor. I think of this as a temporary sponsor arrangement.

I myself benefited from having a temporary sponsor when I was new (at that time there was no online AA only face to face) and saved my ass. But then I was encouraged to look for a sponsor. Yes, my temporary sponsor helped by making suggestions. But I did the work. And I'm glad I did. I cannot imagine being matched up with a sponsor, but that is my ESH.

My question is we doing enough to encourage newcomers to find their own sponsor whether it by a sponsor in e-AA or in face to face, or perhaps both.

Not sure how to do this in the online context.

### **Re # 5 Question 5**

Mainly being a chat room participant, I do think we are doing this sufficiently. Every meeting does offer the opportunity to sign up with a temporary sponsor. Additionally every newcomer in the chat room does receive this useful tip from the fellow members in the room.

### **Re # 5 Question 5**

I've seen no lack of emphasis on the importance of sponsorship.

### **Re # 5 Question 5**

Yes.

### **Re # 5 Question 5**

I believe we do a great job of stressing the importance of sponsorship, and that here it is normally a temporary situation. My case may be unusual, I don't know, but when I was new to AA, I live in rural area with a very limited number of meetings. I attended at least one face to face meeting per day, having to travel to surrounding communities to do so, and many of the same individuals at each of the meetings. Anyway, I came here shortly after starting AA, and asked to be paired with a temporary sponsor. It was emphasized to me it was temporary situation. It took me two months in daily face to face meetings to decide on a sponsor. I took the time I felt

needed to be somewhat certain I had made a thought out decision.

During those two months having a temporary sponsor were critical to me, and I feel that knowing it was temporary, I needed to be pursuing a face to face sponsor, but did not want to rush this in error. To me it made more sense to have a temporary sponsor knowingly here, than to rush one face to face only to decide later on a different one. Bottom line to me is, we offer a temporary sponsorship here, and encourage the newcomer to work towards getting a face to face sponsor ASAP. Mine here worked out terrifically, and agree with earlier posts needing to be thorough in criteria to be a temporary sponsor, representing e-AA as such. These are my opinions only

### **Re # 5 Question 5**

5. Do we emphasize the importance of sponsorship? How effectively? How can we do better?

I believe we do address this in several ways. The role of a sponsor as a guide to the Steps is frequently addressed in meetings and has often been the Topic of the Beginner's Meeting. Newcomers are directed to the link for temporary sponsorship where appropriate. The importance of face to face meetings as well as a face to face sponsor is also discussed with online being ideally a supplement.

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### **Question 6**

6. Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our group members and other A.A.s outside the meeting rooms? Do we also leave the confidences they share at meetings behind?

**Summary: Gossip seems to be a concern here with concern about outside social networking sites such as Facebook as a breach in anonymity.**

---

### **Re # 6 Question 6**

There is a lot of gossip that goes on, and that is too bad but it is going to happen I was always told don't tell someone something unless you know for sure they can be trusted, I am responsible for finding that out myself. I found that out the hard way in AA, not everyone is honest and that is just a hard fact.

### **Re # 6 Question 6**

I think we could have these thoughts as topics for discussion in the recovery meetings.

### **Re # 6 Question 6**

The first thing that pops in my head is Facebook and the continuous mention of it on our site. I often see people come in and right away ask, "Are you on Facebook" and then exchange the needed info.

I have then seen people break their anonymity on their walls and that they are in AA/e-AA, and various issues that happen in e-AA discussed on Facebook. Not to mention some can just look another up and see their friends' list. That's ok if the person who owns the Facebook account if they don't mind breaking their anonymity, but others being able to view their friends' there and thus breaking their anonymity without them even knowing is an issue for me. I know not all

allow anyone to see their friends' list, but some do. And that's all it takes is one person to out many.

### **Re # 6 Question 6**

I have noticed a certain amount of gossip going on. In England (I don't know if it happens anywhere else) we have a yellow card on the table in meetings. It reads 'what you see here, what you hear here, let it stay here', might be a good idea to include it at the end of meetings here?

### **Re # 6 Question 6**

6. Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our group members and other A.A.s outside the meeting rooms? Do we also leave the confidences they share at meetings behind?

I am concerned about the possibility of gossip that goes on here in e-AA. It does seem that what is shared by some in the various online meetings may not stay in the meetings. It is just a feeling that I have, perhaps colored by difficulties with this issue that I've encountered in some face to face meetings. I cannot speak to Facebook, but I am concerned about that as well.

Unfortunately, in my years around the rooms of AA, I do know that gossip happens. That folk will repeat to others both in and outside the rooms about what is shared at meetings. Sometimes in a way that harms others. It is sad that I feel that I will only share at an AA meeting, both face to face and online, what I wish to published in my hometown newspaper.

And this is the internet, whether it is Forums (public) or e-mail or Chat Rooms. E-mail is routed through different servers, for example. So that is a consideration.

And while I have no hard evidence that this happens, something that anyone says in e-mail could be forwarded by someone, against our Traditions, to someone outside these rooms. Also, there is another reason to be careful about what is shared in e-mail. And that would go for any e-mail list, not just e-AA. Sad but true.

I find it sad that if I want to share a confidence I would not consider doing so in an online meeting.

### **Re # 6 Question 6**

We could remind our members that "Who you see here and what you hear here, stays here" during our real-time meetings. Additionally, we could look into hiding the email addresses of our members in the mailing lists as these could be used for others to search additional information on the members through such venues as Facebook and search engines.

If others, however, draw conclusions about third parties through viewing friend's lists of our fellows this shows a certain amount of ignorance. I do have plenty friends who are members of AA, some who are members also of e-AA but also many who are not members at all.

### **Re # 6 Question 6**

I believe we do.

## **Re # 6 Question 6**

I think our efforts are true, but challenging at best to determine if things are being kept "what is heard here stays here/" This is concern of online as a whole, not just here, and unfortunately can't offer any solutions.

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## **Question 7**

7. Do we take the time to explain to all members the value to the group of keeping up with the meeting chores and other essential services that are part-and-parcel of our Twelfth Step efforts?

**Summary: Most feel we need improvement in this area with the value of service explained better.**

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## **Re # 7 Question 7**

In chat we clearly state on our front page the need for Chairs and Greeters and the process of how to sign up for it. Perhaps a short message explaining the value of 12 step work would not be a bad idea.

Service work is a topic of discussion during meetings and chat times quite often. So yes in my respective area I feel we do.

## **Re # 7 Question 7**

It is still unclear to me how to put a dollar in the basket or sign up for regular service work. Perhaps it is a navigation issue, but it is not as clear as seeing the dishes need done and the chairs put away.

## **Re # 7 Question 7**

No, I don't think we do this well. What we really need -- web-savvy techies to keep up the website -- are mostly uninterested in the political nature of the work in this group, or its unending nature, or the self-important demands of trusted servants who don't understand the complications involved in some of their requests. I thank all those who have stuck with it and also those who couldn't.

## **Re # 7 Question 7**

7. Do we take the time to explain to all members the value to the group of keeping up with the meeting chores and other essential services that are part-and-parcel of our Twelfth Step efforts?

I will again only speak for e-mail meetings. I believe that opportunities for service, (greeters, topic posting, etc., etc.) or posted on a regular basis. Sometimes it might take a couple of posting to get all the positions filled. Perhaps there could be improvement?

Then there are other opportunities for service in various committees such as literature, get help now, the web team, etc. Perhaps there could be room to better publicize and make these service opportunities known.

For myself, I have done service in the past, and I rarely do at the moment. I suspect that there are those who might resent people like me who do not currently do service. That is your right, I suppose. I'd like to think that in the spirit that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking that people like me are still welcome to sit and listen.

### **Re # 7 Question 7**

I for one was a little confused about the site and service when I first joined last year. As a matter of fact, I am still a little confused about some of it. I have learned to navigate the site, for example, how to donate with the 7th Tradition link. However, when I wanted to sign up for membership to the group, I found the explanations lacking and wasn't sure that I had done it correctly.

I also submitted a request to serve as a greeter about a month and a half ago, but never received an e-mail confirming that the request was received, an acknowledgment of any type or even an e-mail stating that I did not qualify. However, I did find another way to serve.

Overall, I think that the intentions are good, but the execution could be tweaked a little.

### **Re # 7 Question 7**

There could be more improvements in this area.

### **Re # 7 Question 7**

I also think some improvement is needed in letting people know of the service needs and how to go about helping when available.

### **Re # 7 Question 7**

I do not believe we do. We do remind in every online meeting the possibility to volunteer for service positions but we do not explain the value of it sufficiently in my opinion. I cannot speak for the other areas of e-AA.

### **Re # 7 Question 7**

7. Do we take the time to explain to all members the value to the group of keeping up with the meeting chores and other essential services that are part-and-parcel of our Twelfth Step efforts?

Opportunities for service as greeters and chairs posted every meeting and discussed in chat and potential for improvement in this area.

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### **Question 8**

8. Are all members given the opportunity to speak at meetings and to participate in other group activities?

**Summary: The majority feel that all are given the opportunity to speak and participate in service. The general concern is apathy in this area. Possible ideas for improvement are cross format**

advertising of service openings.

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### **Re # 8 Question 8**

I certainly feel they are. No question.

### **Re # 8 Question 8**

Well, we keep begging them, so if that counts as an opportunity then I guess it's there

### **Re: # 8 Question 8**

8. Are all members given the opportunity to speak at meetings and to participate in other group activities?

Again speaking only for the e-mail meetings, there are opportunities to participate. Of late, I have chosen not to do but have participated in the past. And I understand that the fact that I don't participate does not sit well with many. But the opportunity is there; want to be clear on that.

As for the chat room, by what may be an unspoken mutual understanding, I have not participated in the chat room for at least two years. It is not a venue that works for me, and I suspect that some of the chat participants know that as well. It is better for me to stay away than to risk causing a disruption. That wouldn't help anyone.

### **Re # 8 Question 8**

I think that there are ample opportunities for people to participate, whether through speaking at the meetings or taking part in the process of e-AA. For example, I was recently appointed as the Script Coordinator in the Women's group. I sent approximately 3 e-mails asking for volunteers. A few people stepped up immediately; however, the overall response to my request was weak.

I find it offensive when people complain about the process, but are not willing to take part. That statement does not apply to the person who has participated and performed service, but is now taking a break for their own reasons. That statement should be applied to those who don't volunteer ever.

### **Re # 8 Question 8**

Well said

Without service I do not think I am working the program and helping myself. I need to do service and stay sane and sober.

### **Re # 8 Question 8**

It is said, service keeps me sober. I have found this true and will offer my assistance whenever possible. I also find that there is ample opportunity for service work in the different venues of e-aa.org. It is up to the individual to volunteer their time. Unfortunately I see the same people stepping up. In the Big Book Study, I have repeatedly asked for volunteers to help post from the readings and I have yet to have one do so. Why? I don't have the answer for this question.

### **Re # 8 Question 8**

" In the Big Book study, I have repeatedly asked for volunteers to help post from the readings

and I have yet to have one do so. Why? I don't have the answer for this question".

Good input. Something I was unaware of is a possible change, as we could encourage regular weekly cross list posting, and available service openings and helpers. These are unelected service spots, such as chairs and greeters. I have noticed, sometimes, in the monthly newsletter reports there is the mention of openings for service positions. Chat seems to be where the only service spots are open, for instance, chair and greeter spots. We might do better if we encouraged and inform each other of the service positions available in all areas of e-AA

### **Re # 8 Question 8**

Definitely yes, as far as I am concerned, everyone has ample opportunity to share in all venues. The side topic that has come into this thread is the opportunities to serve, and I think a better job could be done here, as mentioned, cross referencing other venues need of volunteers, along with that particular meeting's needs, etc.

### **Re # 8 Question 8**

Yes we do. I do believe I can say this about all areas of e-AA.

### **Re # 8 Question 8**

8. Are all members given the opportunity to speak at meetings and to participate in other group activities?

Absolutely, there is active encouragement to be involved.

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### **Question 9**

9. Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?

**Summary: The Majority feel we do indeed choose wisely, with an emphasis on the fast turn over and lack of possible choices.**

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### **Re # 9 Question 9**

Unfortunately, we are too much in need of people to be too picky! Choices are available and I think our group does very well exercising good judgment.

### **Re # 9 Question 9**

This is another area where reality steps in unlike a face to face online meetings require specific computer skills and people to "run" the meetings behind the scenes as well as up front. These are not cute jobs to give a newcomer like making coffee or setting up chairs like at a face to face meeting. We are such a big group and we attempt to offer so many services we cannot always be as selective as would seem prudent we have to blindly trust sometimes and we have to give people the benefit of the doubt. We set up guidelines, but we definitely need to remain flexible in filling Trusted Servant positions. My opinion only of course.

### **Re # 9 Question 9**

Definitely! Although we haven't the luxury of long-timers here, I think we make the right

choices.

### **Re # 9 Question 9**

9. Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?

Not much that I can or will add to what has already been said. As this is an online group, there are a lot of Trusted Servant-officers needed. I think that we do as careful a job as is possible given that we don't always have a large number of volunteers who are willing to serve in the various positions.

### **Re: # 9 Question 9**

I cannot honestly answer this question. I have only been here for one election and I found the process confusing. I am quite sure that my confusion was not caused by the process itself or the way that it was implemented. I think my confusion was caused by my lack of knowledge about the process.

### **Re: # 9 Question 9**

Excuse me for doubling dipping.

I want to begin by thanking all of our current, past, and newly elected trusted servants. You all are wonderful; serving under what can be difficult circumstances. For those of you who will be stepping up in Sept. thank-you. I think and hope that this inventory process will help and it is in that spirit that I am offering what I know are my unpopular discussion points in this inventory.

To the point of choosing our trusted servants with and perhaps not having a large pool of people to choose from, I want to add one thing based on my Experience Strength and Hope (ESH). I offer this because I was a Trusted Servant a couple years back. Perhaps my ESH is relevant. In any case, it is good for me to share. I was in a position that our operating docs called a special worker, look under technical services on our Operating Documents (op docs). In some ways I was glad to be of service. In other ways, it was very challenging for me. In the end, there was a level of mistrust and suspicion that I grew tired of. I worked very hard to be a good technical worker, and I knew and tried to freely admit my technical limitations. When I stepped down, I believe that I did so under good terms with the committee. I hope that I did some good. And I stayed sober.

Yes, the mistrust and suspicion may have only come from a couple of folk, and there were others who were supportive and helpful. But the mistrust and suspicion was there and potentially emotionally destructive, if you get my drift.

Yet, when a little quirk happened, and it would, it was bound to, I would sometimes get "why did you let "X" happen? At least from my vantage point, it was hard not to take it personally.

Even after I stepped down as the chair of this committee, and finally left the committee completely, the mistrust and suspicion did not stop. I did something that anyone on an e-mail list could do. And I do understand that many do not know how to control their own subscriptions. I get that. I set my e-mail subscription to no mail while I was out of town. This happened two to

four weeks after I had stepped off the technical committee. and yes passwords were changed! Then I made the mistake of telling the e-mail list that I was back after setting my subscription to no mail, which is a mistake. Long and short, it caused a disruption on the List Keepers List after I sent them an e-mail. There were some who thought that I had done something that I was not supposed to do. Not true! Everything I did was something that anyone who is subscribed to an e-mail list can do, but most do not, and leaving some to draw their own conclusions.

Also, as the incident that I shared earlier revealed, a simple action on my part knowing that there were those who distrusted me, did open the door for false accusations. A couple of simple actions led to a misunderstanding, and could have been a lot worse. Things calmed down.

This was edited on Aug 21, 5PM EST for clarity.

### **Re # 9 Question 9**

Yes, even though the choice is rather small.

### **Re # 9 Question 9**

yes, I think so, in the time I have been here and seen the nomination/election process, I feel this is done correctly

### **Re # 9 Question 9**

Whenever possible I do believe we do choose officers with great care by requesting each candidate to submit AA and their experience in service prior to elections. The qualifier "whenever possible" is due to the lack of sufficient candidates who step forward for service positions.

I would like to suggest for the Members mailing list to engage in a study of the 12 traditions to encourage a higher level of participation as candidates for service positions

### **Re # 9 Question 9**

9. Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?

Given the limitations, I do feel that great care and judgment is exercised.

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### **Question 10**

10. Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive meeting place?

**Summary: The sites appearance and safety is generally approved. The concerns are that online bickering and fighting detract from it.**

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## **Re 10 Question 10**

I really think we do. of course there is always room for improvement. Compared to other online AA sites I think ours is one of a kind, and goes out of the way to provide many ways of recovery in a fairly easy to use format. All areas are easily accessible and have directions on how to use them.

## **Re # 10 Question 10**

I feel safe here. As you may or may not know, I left another discussion page that allowed for the same user to have as many aliases as they desired AND they had a button that allowed for direct comment to a particular post. Comments were not moderated for aggression let alone any adherence to the Traditions and principles. I am grateful to have found this AA approved website!

## **Re # 10 Question 10**

Thanks for your input, it really means a lot to me to hear that perspective. I sometimes worry that some behavior on the part of members could be seen as offensive and thus unattractive. I believe politeness is attractive, and calm even responses to challenges are part of what brings people to AA and to sobriety.

## **Re # 10 Question 10**

I am one that has a hard time with some of the behavior that I see and am aware that at times I am part of the problem. And yes, I don't always have a thick skin, so I am one who is shall we say, sensitive. Quite honestly, I have found some of the conversations on members to be challenging. I try to sit back and listen, not responding. At times that is difficult as I don't always practice restraint of electronic pen. I unsubscribed to a couple of e-mail meetings. One I may go back to after the summer is over, after un-subbing a few weeks ago. The other, one I unsubscribed from a couple of years back, I'm not so certain. I often do not feel safe here. And I don't always know why I stay. But I do stay. And I do take responsibility for taking care of myself so that feel safer.

Mostly I adjust, I share what I feel safe sharing in the e-mail meetings. if an e-mail meeting is not working for me, I unsubscribe.

Sorry, I have to be honest. I want to be honest in my shares on the inventory; I feel I owe that to myself and to the group. If I have offended in this or other shares, I do apologize, that is not my intent. I understand the difficulties and challenges posed by the online format.

For me some of the difficulty with online meetings is that all we see of each other are our words. We cannot see body language and the like. When those of us who spend more time lurking in e-mail meetings and not sharing you are not going to know that we are there listening. Not quite sure what can be done about this. As careful as I often try to be clear in my shares, I do not always succeed. And I do at times, spout off.

## **Re: # 10 Question 10**

It is not clear whether the question is limited to physical attractiveness or the actions of others. Since the prior posts have been limited to others' behaviors, I will confine my conversation to

that area.

I have been coming to this website since last year. I attended sporadically then because I wasn't quite ready to be sober. Since I have been participating in chats, online meetings and performing service, I have found the site to be a warm and inviting place. I have met many nice people here and developed close bonds with a number of very special people.

People are going to be people no matter where you find them. I don't encounter too many problems with others here. I believe that the site performs as being a place for sober people or people who want to become sober, and to hold meetings and share their experience strength and hope.

### **Re # 10 Question 10**

It's been my experience that some people on line personality are less constrained than face to face. I think it's just the nature of the thing. Within that format, I think our trusted servants do a very good job of keeping this an inviting, safe place.

### **Re # 10 Question 10**

Sorry for double dipping yet again.

Forgot to say in my earlier share that one of the problems we have in making an attractive meeting place is the fact that we are an online group. While I personally have had no serious problems accessing any of the venues on our site, I do understand that for some of the technical aspect can be daunting.

I don't quite know what we can do to make this better. For the chat room, which I have not used in a couple of years at least, I do understand that there is a mechanism where folk can click on a button and get help registering. I also understand that there are instructions. However, even so, I do understand that there are some who need extra help.

Within the e-mail meetings, there are list keepers that can help those who are having trouble unsubscribing from an e-mail list. The e-mail address for the list keepers is at the bottom of the e-mail. Don't know what else we can do?

Don't know what can be done to make it easier for those of us who have difficulties with the "techy" aspects of online e-mail meetings. But of course, there may be ideas out there that have not been considered.

### **Re # 10 Question 10**

Too much controversy how about some love and tolerance of others is our code. (In to Action pg84) One of the things that I was looking for while drinking was the unconditional love and acceptance, for the most part, that I found at family reunions, the fellowship of AA has provided that and much more. The warm welcome that I received the first time I walked in the doors has been repeated numerous times in more than 14 states and 500 plus different meetings including e-AA. Please allow that I only use numbers in this post to reflect my experience, understanding that that I'm just another alcoholic by God's grace that has found a daily reprieve from the

alcohol obsession for, which I'm truly grateful.

Pray that my concern is for all, with some emphasis on the newcomer or those that may be struggling. Sorry don't consider some of the controversial post to be bickering, but a lack of respect for fellow members. My observation is that more controversy has occurred on this site the short few months I have been here than I've seen in groups for years, 33 plus, with the exception of maybe District or Area meetings and heck that's usually once a quarter, gives folks time to save it up, unless of course there actually practicing Steps and principles Just a suggestion As Bill Sees It has useful info on controversy, emphasis on the use, and of course the Steps could help us all. Was considering just continuing to type until folks got as tired of this post as I am of controversy

How it Works page 66: "If we were to live, we had to be free of anger. The grouch and the brainstorm were not for us. They may be the dubious luxury of normal men/women, but for alcoholics these things are poison."

Into Action page 7: "Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us." There is a Solution page 28: "If what we have learned and felt and seen means anything at all, it means that all of us, whatever our race, creed, or color are the children of a living Creator with whom we may form a relationship upon simple and understandable terms as soon as we are willing and honest enough to try."

How it Works, page 62: "This is the how and the why of it. First of all, we had to quit playing God. It didn't work. Next, we decided that hereafter in this drama of life; God was going to be our Director. He is the Principal; we are His agents. He is the Father, and we are His children. Most Good ideas are simple, and this concept was the keystone of the new and triumphant arch through which we passed to freedom." So to simplify, we just got some work to do here If no one's told you they love you today, I DO! I am just another brother to all you brothers and sisters whether you like it or not.

### **Re # 10 Question 10**

" Too much controversy how about some "Love and tolerance of others is our code." (In to Action page 84) Sorry don't consider some of the controversial post bickering, but a lack of respect for fellow members"

I agree, as I have suggested before and I will again, a possible solution, which is a Member List to be part of the e-AA group and also to be part of the e-AA Business Meeting.

At my home group I just put my name on an index card and it goes into a box. Thus, if I choose I can attend a business meeting of my home group, once a month and to be part of business, as I am now a member of AA, and that group.

Why does a new person/member/suffering alcoholic here with e-AA end up being required to view the sometimes controversy emails on the business Meeting? When I was new a business meeting of my home group might have drove me away for good.

### **Re # 10 Question 10**

This will be my first try at this. I almost wish the question would have said "a safe and attractive meeting place." This group does very well on both accounts. I first came to e-AA seeking an alternative to face to face meetings after surgery. I looked around a little and some of the others I said; you must be kidding, aside the adaptations to conduct an on-line meeting, I think this is the closest thing to a face to face you can find. We can always do it better and have tried to improve an already high standard. Suggestions are listened to, meetings and discussions held and held and held and held.

A common solution via majority is attained; minority is given their chance to say. We adapt and overcome in the end. If it doesn't work, oh well we tried our best. One such solution is the "new to recovery" room. I wish it was used more, but again it is available. I firmly believe change is inevitable, change is progress, good or not-so-good, but sometimes the adage; "if it isn't broke, don't fix it" really applies.

We have many that do a good job welcoming newcomers, showing the ins and outs of the room, and do a great job at introducing the program of recovery that AA has to offer. Lots of good examples of 12 Step work. I am speaking only for the chat room as I have not tried any of the other venues this group offers. I am sure they do a fine job as well.

### **Re # 10 Question 10**

The problem with a lack of love and tolerance to others is not only restricted to the members list, which in the years that I have been on e-AA has been the business meeting list. I have witnessed problems on one e-mail list, not members, where there has been arguing and name calling and a lot of other un-pleasantness; yes a decided lack of love and tolerance. That one had a more open format, granted. But to have at that level of nastiness, no not appropriate. Sure, I suppose that I am not missed from that list. On other lists with more controls, someone will be spoken to, I suppose when someone gets ugly.

Back to our business meetings on members, no, we have to clean up our act on members. While bickering as someone called it might happen in a business meeting, there is no reason for some of the nastiness and name calling that goes around. I am participating in this inventory because I hope that we on e-AA can and will address these issues in a sober manner. Yes, to love and tolerance.

### **Re # 10 Question 10**

Of course we are I feel so at home here. There may be differences of opinion amongst us but we sort them out in the end. Things too are happening to the format of the meetings which is exciting. I don't go to other online meetings I don't need to this one suits me just fine thank you

### **Re # 10 Question 10**

In general, yes, but, and I hate to add this, I had to un-subscribe from a list because of a member who has a habit of bullying the newcomers and I got tired of asking her to reword or soften her

words. I would then be the brunt of her tongue lashings and so my choice was to step away. I had asked for help from the appointed Trusted Servant and didn't receive it because they disagreed with me. I had those same newcomers come to me and ask for help or tell me that they were intimidated by this woman. And it has not been a one-time occurrence.

### **Re # 10 Question 10**

Yes. I looked at numerous online AA sites, and e-AA stood tall by comparison. I know sometimes personal situations come up, and heated text exchanged etc., we are humans, not computers. That doesn't mean it shouldn't be addressed when it occurs, and I think that is done here as well.

### **Re # 10 Question 10**

The answer to this question depends on what we define as an attractive meeting place. If we judge our room by the amount of graphic material on the site we may score lower than possible. I however believe in general the e-AA meeting room and website to be quite attractive to suit its purpose. The only improvement I deem necessary is to fix the two spelling mistakes in our Logo!! For those who notice it does give a sloppy impression.

### **Re # 10 Question 10**

10. Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive meeting place?

Yes. I genuinely believe that we are. There is much to commend e-AA as is evidenced by comments from users who keep coming back. It is a welcoming site with a wide range of facilities and alternative venues. There is a strong focus on recovery and providing a safe environment for newcomers. Helping others is an essential part of recovery and newcomers remind people of why they came to AA in the first place. Evaluation and consideration of ways in which we could further improve is ongoing and dynamic.

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### **Question 11**

11. Does the group do its fair share toward participating in the purpose of A.A. as it relates to our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service?

**Summary: Of the three, Recovery passes while Unity continues to be an issue, and Service needs improvement.**

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### **Re # Question 11**

Absolutely! Refer to my post to Question 10.

### **Re # 11 Question 11**

Group doing its fair share, that's an interesting way to put it. Its fair share means what it does as a group apart from what individual members are doing. Outreach, Unity, Recovery and Service, how does the group rate on each of these? I think maybe on outreach we might be more accessible, along the lines of Public Information. As for Unity we might have some guidelines about any debacles that break out, such as email time outs in the members list. For recovery, it seems that the Steps as the way of life for AA members often falls by the wayside in discussions, more and more lately. And for service, the group needs to ensure more involvement from its new

members. Partnering new members with a service sponsor might get the rotations more active, it does feel as if fresh blood is in demand.

### **Re # 11 Question 11**

Our fair share in Service, it seems from my observations that we either get someone who wants to do everything they possibly can, is stepping up in a clinch all the time, and participates in all discussions, or ones that never offer or ask about service. Perhaps we need to work on making our service position openings more available and maybe even approach others and simply ask if they would be willing.

I feel that Recovery is a huge part of the chat area, although we do have open chat and it can get off topic at times, but its considered a before and after the meeting format with many thing talked about within reason and our decorum guidelines. I'd say 80 percent of the time though it is a Recovery based discussion.

I see nothing but Recovery in the other areas I've had access too, with the exception of the lounges at times and that are what it was intended for I do believe, a place to let loose.

Unity I do believe we are making progress as stated before and hopefully in the future we can as a group come together through the very principles we practice in our everyday life, outside this chat room.

### **Re # 11 Question 11**

The one area I think that needs some help is Unity often you would never know we are in a spiritual fellowship by the hateful and nasty comments made, myself included at times.

We have some real divisions here that seem to be on going one says you cannot talk about anything "negative" and it is said very negatively! Downright rude! I am thinking seriously about leaving e-AA altogether after the last nasty go around today I have been here for I don't know about 4 years maybe and many folks would be giddy at this news and that is okay with me. I had a very wise sponsor ask me once to think of my least favorite person in AA and then ask myself if this person needed help, would I help them?

If my answer was no, then not only do I have a resentment, but I have a soul sickness as well we are going to disagree, we are human, but personal attacks are very hurtful and I do not think called for so I am going to pray and talk to my sponsor about this.

### **Re # 11 Question 11**

Recovery Unity and Service, are we doing our fair share? Hell yes I think so. I see people come into chat, new to AA or e-AA, and they get so much help, it is amazing. Unity, now that's an easy one, of course we are united, and Service, well, you only got to look at the site to see that is doing well we get the odd 1 or 2 odd-balls, but so do face to face it wouldn't be AA if not.

### **Re # 11 Question 11**

I believe the Service portion could be looked at to see why there is only a few that volunteer. Perhaps when a newcomer reaches a certain mile stone, there can be a position that is offered and rotated to the next newcomer. Service keeps us sober.

### **Re # 11 Question 11**

I think e-AA is focused on the Recovery, and being human, needs to improve in Unity are sometimes glaring, but with a determination for growth here, this too can improve. of course we all would like to see more people interested in Service, and more open knowledge of the need and opportunities can improve this, but Service can't be forced.

### **Re # 11 Question 11**

Yes for Recovery, yes for Unity. We could encourage participation to Service within the group.

### **Re # 11 Question 11**

Recovery: I think we do this. Service: plenty of opportunities, as others have suggested perhaps we need to improve how service opportunities are communicated within the group Unity. As I've said elsewhere, perhaps some room for improvement here because of the food fighting and mud slinging on members and at times on other e-mail lists.

But I have to say in spite of the nastiness that goes on, we are still here and recovery does happen.

Can't really speak for chat, which I don't use for reasons I've gone into elsewhere. And little experience with forums, which I may explore more in a couple of weeks.

### **Re # 11 Question 11**

I have known that this group does an excellent job in the Recovery mode, by having the temporary sponsors available for the newcomer, as well as the focusing on them in the chat room when they arrive and have questions about the program. As a group our primary purpose is not disregarded here.

Unity does require more work, as sometimes principles before personality tend to dominate, as in face to face meetings cliques do not serve AA well. However I have seen an improvement in this area. I cannot help try and remember this guideline that is posted along with the: I am Responsible Statement in much of our literature, which can be the guiding principle in Unity of a group.

The Declaration of Unity This we owe to AA's future: To place our common welfare first; To keep our fellowship united. For on AA Unity depend our lives: And the lives of those to come.

Service is always going to be lacking and this observation is not geared to e-AA but to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. There are only a limited amount people who are willing to serve. A lot of members are misinformed and believe that being in Service is too political and do not understand how vital it is, as well as being such a rewarding experience to serve AA. Also Service can help a person grow spiritually by apply the principles of love and tolerance when working with other members of AA. Overall those who serve in e-AA are doing a very good job.

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## Question 12

12. Do we as a group blindly trust our Trusted Servants by not asking for clarification instead of being quiet to keep the peace? Do we as a group openly communicate, resolve issues, and grow as a group?

**Summary:** While it seems we are improving in this area, majority response is that we need to work on communication and openness. Most feel questions or inquiries are met with unpleasant responses leading to some feeling they should remain quiet to avoid confrontation.

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### Re # 12 Question 12

I see vast improvement in this area. Let's hope we continue.

### Re # 12 Question 12

I am going to be very unpopular here, I think we have a lot of clashes going on and a lot of back biting, which is very sad, and I think it gets to be a power play instead of the purpose of serving, not everyone, of course!! There are mostly folks with some humility and a real servant's heart, but, lord help you if you are disliked by some, with behind the back e mails flying like crazy with attacks rampant!

### Re # 12 Question 12

I've heard of this backbiting, etc. from other sources so I tend to give it credibility. I was hesitant to bring it up as I truly do sense we are growing in the right direction in this regard.

I will say this. If someone is experiencing these attacks I believe the best way to combat the behavior is to expose it. Yes, it may well inflame or antagonize some. But to sit back and allow it as we have in the past only condones and enables the behavior. Speak up, people. This is NOT the intent of AA and should not be tolerated.

### Re # 12 Question 12

I have had no problem with the resolution of issues that I have had.

### Re # 12 Question 12

" I am going to be very unpopular here; I think we have a lot of clashes going on and a lot of back biting, which is very sad, and I think it gets to be a power playing instead of the purpose of serving."

I will say this. If someone is experiencing these attacks I believe the best way to combat the behavior is to expose it. Yes, it may well inflame or antagonize some. But to sit back and allow it as we have in the past only condones and enables the behavior. Speak up, people. This is NOT the intent of AA and should not be tolerated.

Unfortunately, we're not abiding by the AA service structure. Some are taking advantage of this

fact, to take self-will for granted when in this position of unqualified authority. In AA, Committees are directly responsible to those they serve and the chairperson the single point of accountability. Ultimate authority is wrested in the group conscience, not the delegated group servant. With, of course, redress to grievance if so affected.

Odd, that in this Inventory, neither the 12 Concepts of AA Service, nor our own Operating Documents are referenced here. Indeed, the op docs have been amended many times internally by committee, implemented, and never brought to the Members list for ratification and yet, the Group is where the ultimate authority resides.

It appears that the laxity has stemmed from an extreme laissez-faire approach and as has been pointed out, an "If it ain't fixed, don't break it" attitude. Which has only served to let the misunderstandings fester and, unspeakable, to deny alcoholics entry on the basis of personal whim, power drive or malicious gossip and derision. Indeed, 5 out of 6 of the Warranties of Service (found in Concept XII) are being flaunted in the name of "control", as if that were an e-AA principle. Gossip, slander and character assassination are more the tools of a political entity, rather than a spiritual one... which AA groups are intended to be. We cannot serve two masters and the human kind has failed me.

Perhaps in keeping with the direction our elections have taken, to have a better informed group conscience by qualifying nominees. We could hold a global Group Service Workshop or series that would allow them to familiarize themselves with e-AA's current service structure, a chance to demonstrate their experience, strength and hope in AA service and in some ways, preview what may be to come in accepting a continued service position. And provide the group interaction on the basis of service, before baptism by fire and reflexive negative responses. The "old" problems of money, property and prestige, and the "I, me, mine possession, undermines the small voice for the good of the whole, as yours and mine individual tends to divert us away from our focus towards freedom from the lash of alcohol. We are given as a daily reprieve, contingent upon our spiritual condition.

### **. Re # 12 Question 12**

We could hold a global Group Service Workshop or series, I second that.

### **Re # 12 Question 12**

It doesn't help that requests for clarification are occasionally met with unpleasant responses. That's something we all have to watch for, either face to face or online. The loving act of service can be best seen in warmth, understanding and willingness to go the extra mile in explanation.

It gets to the point where if one is looking for clarification a certain preparation for whatever ridicule may result from revealing ignorance has to be gone through first.

### **Re # 12 Question 12**

This program has taught me through practicing these principles, that turning our will and life over to God, looking at our part in things, keeping our side of the street clean, and doing this on a daily basis, and promptly making amends when wrong, that we can at times agree to disagree, and still as a group, come to an understanding. It IS what this program teaches us!

Yes there has been back biting, character assassinations, and manipulation that were so unnecessary. I have been on both ends of it and have certainly learned a lesson as I grow in sobriety.

I agree with the above in that. I do see vast improvement. I think should we all work as a group to better this site the best way we can, remember principles before personalities, and remember that together we can, this can only get better. Misunderstandings worked out the way this program teaches us surely can be worked out civilly.

I don't see why we can't ask for any kind of clarification in an effort to all stay on the same page in a group effort of bettering the site to carry the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic the best we possibly can.

Hopefully we continue to improve in this area.

### **Re # 12 Question 12**

I also have observed a vast improvement lately in this group and I believed that it was just a matter of time until it was resolved. I have for one understood that principles before personalities will always occur in any group and that the ones that put personalities first will eventually be exposed. At times I think that some got away from "God is the ultimate authority." I am personally glad that this room is returning to the Unity of us all working together to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, which what this group is here for in the first place. Let's continue growing along spiritual lines in e-AA which can only strengthen our resolve to help others.

### **Re # 12 Question 12**

I have noticed the changes over the years within this group. A lot of cleansing has been carried out, and therefore we are all able to communicate a lot better.

### **Re # 12 Question 12**

When I answered this question a few days ago, my immediate response was No I absolutely do not think that we are getting better, well at least not on members. And the problem, in my opinion, is not simple. It is not a matter of Trusted Servants not wanting to answer questions. It is the larger environment or culture, if you will on members. When I first came on e-AA a few years ago, I was told that there were a lot of food fights and mud flying on members. Why the heck does this sort of behavior have to be tolerated? Why did I have been told to get used to it?

In hindsight, perhaps I was a little too harsh, but I opted to leave it in as opposed to cutting it out because I do feel that way from time to time.

Sometimes I feel like we cannot seem to offer a safe environment where someone can ask a question, and get an answer from the Trusted Servant involved. Yeah, it might take time for the Trusted Servant to answer the questions because this is an e-mail business meeting. And let's

remember for some who are not new to e-AA, but are perhaps new to members, they are going to have questions. Sure it isn't easy for some of us to trust, the online environment is different in many ways.

Why can't we allow someone to ask a question, and then be quiet until the Trusted Servant or another knowledgeable person, perhaps someone who uses to serve the group in that trusted servant position in the past gives a good answer with correct information? And remember, and I have failed to remember and been called on this, that for some TS the large volume of e-mail can, at times, be a burden and can take a little time before they can answer.

With all the sort of nonsense that goes on in members with accusations and misinformation flying, I sometimes wonder if the answers that are being sought are lost in the confusion.

Take from someone who was a Trusted Servant as I was about three ago, it is very challenging to sit back on members and listen when all kinds of food fighting and the like is being directed at "your area." Fortunately I had an online sponsor who helped me, and she tells me to shut the f and listen. And yes, I did have to answer questions of them hard. Sad to say that, I have shared in response to another question, there is nothing about my experience as a Trusted Servant that would make me want to do that again in e-AA.

Sorry that is the hard truth of my ESH here in e-AA. And no, it will not make me popular around here. I get that. But for me part of the process, I hope, is having a voice through sharing my responses to the inventory questions, and then being ready to let go, turn it over, and to continue to try to practice love and tolerance.

And I want to close by thanking all of our current, past, and newly elected trusted servants. You all are wonderful; serving under what can be difficult circumstances. For those of you who will be stepping up in Sept. thank-you. I think and hope that this inventory process will help and it is in that spirit that I am offering what I know are my unpopular discussion points in this inventory.

I have however, made a couple of changes, including deleting a reference wondering if Trusted Servant might not want to answer a question. All of my questions have been answered, might take a few hours or a day depending on how busy the Trusted Servant is with their e-mail, but questions always answered. My wondering if Trusted Servants did not want to answer questions not appropriate. The others were some edits for grammar and clarity.

### **Re # 12 Question 12**

This is a self-leveling process and I am glad to see an improvement. I want to be part of a solution not the problem, hence my participation in this Inventory.

### **Re # 12 Question 12**

Wow powerful responses to this question two questions do we blindly trust and not ask?? I have just finished an extended period as a Trusted Servants, extended not by my choice but by the actions of another I have had many questions asked privately, privately because of fear of the reaction of others to their questions. To me this is pretty human. We have folks here who do not like the way we do things we always will and they have no hesitation to tell us what we are doing wrong but where were they in June when we were electing Trusted Servants?

It is very easy to grandstand here; we offer a wide open podium for all the criticism all day long, but incredibly few who actually are willing to step up and serve.

I think over all our open communication is pretty good- there are those who believe every single post should be public and if we have private conversations we are gossiping or hiding something I disagree. I have made some good friends here with private conversations with people I have come to trust, I am human. I do not trust those who complain/criticize all the time.

Do we resolved issues? Not always. We will continually have differences of opinions, but we have generally been able to compromise. In our members meeting we are inclined to take ourselves way too seriously and forget the point of AA; to carry the message not to prove who is right or who memorizes the AA Service Manual. I think we continue to grow because we maintain flexibility.

### **Re # 12 Question 12**

I do sometimes write a Trusted Servant privately (Group Secretary, Secretary of an e-mail list). When I do, my intention is that I don't want to clutter up the inboxes of those on the list. However, I have at times failed to consider that some of my private e-mails were unnecessary. Or in the case of sending an e-mail to the list keepers as I did a couple of years, leads to a flurry of responses to all that cluttered up their inboxes. I was spoken to privately by the then group secretary (not our current Group secretary).

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### **Question 13**

13. How is the group fulfilling its responsibility to the 7th Tradition?

**Summary: While the Treasurer does a good job, the majority seem to feel there is a lack of communication on the disbursement of said funds and wish to see clarification in a more easily accessible way.**

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### **Re: # 13 Question 13**

Sadly I have been neglectful as far as the 7th Tradition goes here personally. But overall, I do see it mentioned, it's easily accessible in order to make a donation offering both snail mail and PayPal, which many detest, I've never had an issue with it and find it useful and easy to use. We also recently came to an agreement on a \$1,000.00 limit with anything above being split between OIAA and AAWS.

So yes overall I feel we handle the 7th Tradition responsibility well.

### **Re # 13 Question 13**

I should mention also that the 7th tradition is mentioned before every meeting in chat in the opening format.

### **Re # 13 Question 13**

Sometimes we rely on one member with specific abilities to take care of special duties for tasks that we might have to pay for otherwise. I've heard this discussed as an possible example of our group not being self-supporting.

### **Re # 13 Question 13**

In regards to the donations the group, per group conscience, makes to the AA service organizations, I think that there some who may not know what we do, and may not know what the group conscience is about our prudent reserve. And I have seen over my years in AA, face to face and online, that the groups 7th Tradition can often lead to difficult business meetings and hard feelings.

I think this is where our operating documents can come in. In some face to face meetings, there is a notebook where important group consciences decisions such as how 7th Tradition funds are dispersed, duties of officers, etc. are recorded. I just checked to see if there is something in our operating documents recording how we disperse the 7th Tradition. I didn't find anything, and I understand that it could well be there and I am not seeing it.

Anyway, a section in the op docs saying that we have server costs to run the site, and we pay so much every quarter, month or how ever often we are billed. We have costs for the chat room software. We have literature costs, etc. And we have "X" amount as our prudent reserve. Yes, I know that this is in the treasurer's report and our treasurers do a great job of recording, reporting information monthly and answering questions. But I am suggesting that something in the operating docs might help. At least it is a place for folk to go, or be referred to where they can see for themselves how our 7th Tradition funds are dispersed.

### **Re # 13 Question 13**

For some of us who have not seen the report of where the money goes. I think however it is to be done, should be done, the donations to AAWS, etc. should be a high priority and not just blown off to the side that is what it sounded like to me. I look forward to seeing a full report when it is ready to come out again. I disagree that we should use funds for big books and grapevine drawings and then not care if we give to GSO, the treasure is doing a great job and that is not the point. I hope this can be looked at with out all the personal attacks that has been slung around, but we shall see

### **Re # 13 Question 13**

I feel we handle this very well indeed. Some have issues with giving a Big Book away, and the Grapevine drawing, but this has been discussed and voted on, so be it! I once won the Grapevine for a whole year and I live in England, I was worried that the price of subscription and P&P would not merit me winning this, but as I read the Grapevine, I was so glad I had won it. The treasurer does a brilliant job, I am a treasurer for a face to face group I attend When I ask at group conscience meeting if I can send money to GSO, the look on some of their faces would kill sometimes.

### **Re # 13 Question 13**

I believe the treasurer does a great job. I think we could do a better job in passing the hat. I have not mentioned this at all in the Big Book study. Perhaps there can be a daily/weekly suggestion for contributions by each secretary of the group.

### **Re# 13 Question 13**

I think more announcing of "passing the basket" would help, and as to GSO, I feel we should be

sending monies, not saying we don't, just that I am in support of it. I also feel that the Big Book and the Grapevine giveaways are worthwhile, and have been voted upon and approved as I understand it. I personally have given each month since I have joined e-AA. I feel I benefit as much from e-AA, if not more than from my face to face groups, which I donate to each meeting. This is not to brag or challenge, but to show the importance of Tradition 7.

### **Re: # 13 Question 13**

I do believe that e-AA is still afloat and that if we are ever in the red in regards to funds then, it is important to let others know if this happens. I have seen groups almost flounder and then the contributions start picking up again. It just happens that way in AA. If we are in a crisis things will change. On the other hand, if we stay the same and our doors will close. I really do not think that is going to happen. I do believe if our hearts and minds are in the right place then we will survive as a group. God does work for us in this regard I have seen it.

### **RE # 13 Question 13**

Judging from the fact that the members' list just celebrated the addition of its 100th member I do believe we could do better than we currently are. Some postings make me believe that as our members more often than not use e-AA as a supplement to their individual face to face experience that the wrong impression does exist that the drop in the face to face basket also extends to e-AA. Our financial officers do report sufficiently and timely about the financial state of affairs of the group but do get a lot of negative feedback when they remind our members of the possibility to contribute. Maybe our chairs in chat could encourage participants regarding this when "passing out the basket" during meetings. I do not believe the importance of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition is sufficiently underlined in the mail listings nor in Forums either.

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### **Question 14**

14. Are we adequately informing all AA members at each meeting that we have a method for passing the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition basket?

Are we careful to specify and accept donations only from AA members?

**Summary: Most feel we could improve the way we mention the passing of the basket, with some areas more involved than others. We do a good job of asking that you be a member of AA before donating.**

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### **Re # 14 Question 14**

Again, I can only speak for chat but yes it is mentioned at every meeting and asks if you are an AA member and wish to donate.

### **Re # 14 Question 14**

This is a tough one, since online we have to use PayPal or ask people to send checks to a certain address. It is much harder than physically passing the basket and getting the spare change or extra couple of bucks from someone's wallet or pocket. We have a place announcing the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition in the forums, but people don't have to read it. And in email meetings it seems to be up

to the Treasurer to send an announcement, rather than a duty of the secretary or chairperson as in face to face. So, is it adequate? Actually from what I've seen no, as for whether we specify only AA members, I don't remember that specifically.

### **Re # 14 Question 14**

I agree that this is a tough one. Online we have to depend on PayPal for our donations or else send money through snail mail. And announcing the 7th Tradition, i.e. in e-mail meetings or forums, is not perfect. People don't have to read the forum post as someone as already pointed out. And it might be nice if announcing the 7th Tradition in e-mail meetings did not depend on the treasurer if that is a problem. But even if someone doesn't read the e-mail and deletes it, a post with the subject line "passing the basket - 7th Traditions might get the point across.

On the other question posed here. 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition donations come from.

If you go to our 7th Tradition page on the e-AA website, Code: [http://www.e-aa.org/group\\_seventh.php](http://www.e-aa.org/group_seventh.php)

Then you will see that there is a notation that if you are not a member of e-AA that we cannot accept a donation from you. Perhaps that is the best that can be done under the circumstances. Of course, there still might be someone who is not a member of e-AA who might find there way to that link and make a donation to pay pal. Just what the heck are we supposed to do if they do so? Not that this has happened I have no reason to believe it has. And I would trust the treasurer to let us know if there should be a donation from someone that s/he thinks might not be an e-AA member.

### **Re # 14 Question 14**

As I stated earlier there can be an improvement.  
I have not once mentioned the 7th Tradition in the Big Book Study.

### **Re # 14 Question 14**

I agree that improvement is needed here could be in email lists that an automated email periodically sent to list members, and moderators somehow do the same in the discussion forums. I know, easier said than done, but feel some attention needed here.

### **Re # 14 Question 14**

From a chatters point of view yes, I tend to believe it is less so in the other areas of e-AA.  
I need to refer the second question to the financial officers.

### **Re # 14 Question 14**

14. Are we adequately informing all AA members at each meeting that we have a method for passing the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition basket?

Are we careful to specify and accept donations only from AA members?

The 7th Tradition is covered at every meeting and the link is visible on front page as one log in.  
The invite is directed specifically at AA members.

