

AA GRAPEVINE WORKSHOP

Sponsored by the Grass Valley Fellowship and CNIA 07 District 20

Serenity Prayer

The AA Grapevine is called our meeting in print. Members contribute to meetings, and so it is with the AA Grapevine.

www.aagrapevine.org

What you can submit to the Grapevine:

- Art
- Stories
- Letters or comments (What's On Your Mind page)
- Jokes
- Photos (If Walls Could Talk)
- Events

Other Grapevine Features

Check out the Get Involved page (www.aagrapevine.org/get-involved). There you can:

- Participate in a poll
- Submit a caption
- Vote on a caption
- Learn about the Carry the Message Project
- View the editorial calendar
- Find Grapevine on YouTube

Submitting a story

- Write your story
- Record your story - www.aagrapevine.org/audio-portal
 - Use your own digital recorder, smart phone or other mobile devices. WAV and MP3 files will be accepted. You can send them to webcoord@aagrapevine.org or upload them via the story submission page
 - Call the audio project voicemail system at (559) 726-1216. (Long distance charges will apply.)
- Wait for a reply. It may take a year or two before hearing back.

Our seventh tradition states that “every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. Our expenses include rent, cost of online platform, and donations to the district, area, and New York. Grass Valley Fellowship 7th tradition contributions may be sent electronically to: grassvalleyfellowshipaa@gmail.com or by mail to: PO BOX 1584, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Tips for Writing a Story

- Read a few Grapevine stories and find ones you especially like.
- Tell your story as you do at a meeting. Share your experience, strength and hope.
- Think about the arc of a story: a beginning, a middle and an end.
- Use a few details, such as when and where this story took place.
- Just write it. Don't interfere with the flow by trying to make it perfect. Don't think about grammar or punctuation. You can edit it later.
- Keep it short and check your word count. If you write it on the computer, the computer program you use will tell you your word count.
 - *“Grapevine publishes work of different lengths, from snappy one-liners and one-paragraph anecdotes to five- or six-page articles. Suggested manuscript length is 300 to 1800 words or three to five double-spaced typed pages. Handwritten manuscripts should be written clearly on one side of the paper.”*

Topics: Here are some suggestions from Grapevine to get you thinking. Feel free to choose something else. For instance, you can write about a tradition or slogan or how you stayed sober through various events or challenges.

- An anecdote from your first 90 days
- My first sponsor
- Getting to Step One
- Going back to school sober
- Talking to family about your sobriety
- My first job sober
- My old friends, my new friends
- My favorite service commitment
- My favorite Step—and why
- Fun times in Sobriety (pick one)
- What got me into AA?
- How I deal with fear today
- What my sponsor taught me (something I'll never forget)
- How I found my Higher Power
- My favorite part of the Big Book
- Going on your first date in sobriety
- People, places and things
- A 9th Step amend that changed my life
- My sober morning routine
- How I pray
- My meditation
- Describe bottom or a surrender in AA

Writing Exercise: Start writing – don't censor or think about it. Don't worry about where to start. Write on whatever you want or pick a topic from above.

Questions?



Guidelines For Contributing to Grapevine

Share your story, jokes, photos and art

AA members around the world have been submitting their personal stories, their experience, strength and hope, their ups, downs and in-betweens to Grapevine since 1944. Why not join them? You don't need to have had prior publishing experience. All you need is a little willingness and the desire to share. Here are some suggestions to help you. Grapevine is published both as a monthly, print magazine and frequently updated website.

Read the [Editorial Policy here](#).

Here are suggestions and tips for submitting your art, photos and writing:

WRITING ARTICLES

Before writing, you might want to leaf through a few issues to see what kinds of articles are published. Most are first-person accounts of the writer's experience with alcoholism and AA. Grapevine publishes stories for special departments such as Emotional Sobriety, Sponsorship, Newcomers, What's On Your Mind?, Young & Sober, Old-Timers, Spiritual Awakenings, Service and Home Group, as well as articles about each Step and Tradition, jokes for "At Wit's End" and letters for "Dear Grapevine." But you are not confined to these topics. The editors are always looking for innovative material, as long as it relates to AA experience and reflects an awareness of AA's singleness of purpose. Articles are reviewed by the editorial staff and selected by consensus.

WHAT GRAPEVINE DOES NOT PUBLISH

Poems, prayers, song lyrics, tributes to individuals, plays, previously published material or anything unrelated to AA or that violates the principles of AA.

LENGTH AND FORMAT

Grapevine publishes work of different lengths, from snappy one-liners and one-paragraph anecdotes to five- or six-page articles. Suggested manuscript length is 300 to 1800 words or three to five double-spaced typed pages. Handwritten manuscripts should be written clearly on one side of the paper.

TIMING

The process of article selection for any issue begins about five months before the cover date. Take the December issue as an example: Articles are selected around the beginning of August; the editing and production process takes three months; and the issue comes off the press in early November, in time to be mailed to subscribers by the cover date. As a result, a holiday-themed story mailed to Grapevine in November, would arrive after the December issue is already printed. (It might, however, be saved for the following December issue.)

SUBMITTING ARTICLES, LETTERS AND JOKES

To submit your story, letter or joke, www.aagrapevine.org/content/submit-grapevine and follow the easy directions. If you need, you may also mail your submission to: Grapevine, Editorial Dept., 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 or email it to gveditorial@aagrapevine.org. Include your full name, address, phone number and email address. Important: Please keep a copy of your work, as manuscripts cannot be returned.

SUBMITTING PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND CARTOONS

Grapevine uses members' photographs, drawings and paintings when they relate to specific articles. We are also looking for photos of your AA meetings (without people) for "If Walls Could Talk," Grapevine's gallery of meeting places around the world; original cartoons, never published elsewhere; and photos for the annual Wall Calendar Photo Contest. We also are interested in working with artists who can create professional-quality images from assigned storylines.

IMPORTANT: Photos and art must be sent as high resolution (300 dpi) jpgs. www.aagrapevine.org/content/submit-grapevine to submit your work. If needed, prints or CDs of your photos can be mailed to Grapevine, Editorial Dept., 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. If you are mailing prints, each photo or piece of artwork should be clearly marked with your name, address, phone number and email address. "If Walls Could Talk" submissions also should include the AA group's name and location.

GRAPEVINE

Editorial Calendar 2021

JANUARY	Oldtimers (stories due July 15, 2020) Let's hear from our long-time members! What was AA like when you came in? What have you learned over the years? What have been your greatest challenges and joys? Share your stories.
FEBRUARY	Sponsorship (stories due Aug 15, 2020) Share your experiences of sponsoring others (or of being sponsored). What are some of the things you learned? What things do you now pass on? Share your story.
MARCH	Making Amends (stories due Sept. 15, 2020) Did you have a particularly interesting or difficult Ninth Step experiences? How did it go? Any surprises? How did your sponsor help you? How did it change you? Share your story.
APRIL	Fun in Sobriety (stories due Oct. 15, 2020) We're not a glum lot. Been on any fun sober trips? How about camping, skiing, skydiving, dancing, collecting, reading, cooking, volunteering? What about service events, new hobbies, game nights, sober vacations? Share your sober adventures! Let's hear from you!
MAY	How the Steps Changed My Life (stories due Nov. 15, 2020) Pick a Step and share your experiences with it. Four? Five? Eight? Eleven? Tell us how that Step changed you and enriched your life. Give examples. Share your stories.
JUNE	Dating & Relationships (stories due Dec. 15, 2020) Share your experiences learning to date in sobriety. How did it go? What were your challenges? Any tips? Share what you've learned about having sober relationships. How have you changed?
JULY	Prison Issue (stories due Jan. 15, 2021) Stories by members about how AA brings hope into prisons and jails. Stories by prisoners and by those who bring AA meetings to them. Involved in correspondence service or prison sponsorship? We would love to hear your stories.
AUGUST	Sober Seniors (stories due Feb 15, 2021) What are some challenges you have getting older in AA? Are you in assisted living? How do you get to AA meetings? How do you stay connected to the Fellowship? Did you get sober later in life? Do you do service reaching out to senior members? Share your experiences.
SEPTEMBER	Young & Sober (stories due March 15, 2021) Did you come into AA at an early age? What was that like? We're looking for stories by people who got sober in their teens, 20s and 30s. Do you go to Young People's AA meetings and Conferences? How have they helped you? Share your experience!
OCTOBER	Cooperation With Professionals (CPC) (stories due April 15, 2021) Have you participated in CPC service (providing doctors, therapists, clergy, lawyers, parole officers and other professionals information about AA)? Share your experiences. Did a professional help you find your way to AA because of CPC service work?
NOVEMBER	Classic Grapevine Our favorite stories from the AA Grapevine Story Archive.
DECEMBER	Remote Communities Experiences (& Staying Sober through the Holidays!) (stories due June 15, 2021) Do you live far from AA meetings? Are you a loner? Stationed far away? Do you have a language or cultural barrier? Are you homebound? Is it difficult to find AA meetings where you live? Tell us how you stay sober. Are you involved in Remote Community service? Share your experiences. Also, December is a great time of year to reach out to alcoholics and help others. What are the ways you stay sane and grateful during the holidays and New Year's? How do you navigate holiday parties and family gatherings? Share your best sober holiday stories!

LA VIÑA

Temas de la Revista La Viña para el 2021

ENERO/FEBRERO	Grupo Base ¿Por qué es importante tener un grupo base para nuestra sobriedad? <i>Fecha límite para enviar tu historial: 30 de julio del 2020</i>
MARZO/ABRIL	Edición Anual de Nuevos Aunque el mensaje es sencillo, las experiencias de como cada AA comienza el camino son variadas e invaluable. <i>Fecha límite para enviar tu historial: 25 de septiembre del 2020</i>
MAYO/JUNIO	Espiritualidad Exploramos las diferentes maneras que los miembros encuentran una relación con un Poder Superior. <i>Fecha límite para enviar tu historial: 30 de noviembre del 2020</i>
JULIO/AGOSTO	25 Aniversario de La Viña Celebramos juntos con historias y experiencias de la importancia de nuestra reunión impresa. <i>Fecha límite para enviar tu historial: 30 de enero del 2021</i>
SEPTIEMBRE/OCTUBRE	Edición Anual de Prisiones Escuchamos de todos nuestros compañeros que tienen experiencia escuchando el mensaje en prisiones y cárceles. <i>Fecha límite para enviar tu historial: 30 de marzo del 2021</i>
NOVIEMBRE/DICIEMBRE	Familia Para nuestra edición de fin de año, hacemos reflexión de la importancia de la familia en nuestra recuperación. <i>Fecha límite para enviar tu historial: 30 de mayo del 2021</i>



2021 La Viña Editorial Calendar

JANUARY/FEBRUARY	Home Group How has having a homegroup helped your sobriety? <i>Deadline to submit your story: July 30th, 2020</i>
MARCH/APRIL	The Annual Newcomer Issue Although it's a simple message, the ways that many AA's come around to it are varied and unique. We welcome all newcomers! <i>Deadline to submit your story: September 25th, 2020</i>
MAY/JUNE	Spirituality We explore the different ways that members have found their relationship with a Higher Power. <i>Deadline to submit your story: November 30th, 2020</i>
JULY/AUGUST	25th Anniversary of La Viña We are celebrating together with the stories and experiences sharing the importance of our meeting in print. <i>Deadline to submit your story: January 30th, 2021</i>
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER	The Annual Prison Issue We hear from our fellows who have experience hearing the message in prisons and jails. <i>Deadline to submit your story: March 30th, 2021</i>
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER	Family For our end of the year issue, we reflect on the importance of our families for our recovery. <i>Deadline to submit your story: May 30th, 2021</i>