

# GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTING TO GRAPEVINE

It's your meeting in print:  
Why not share?

AA members around the world have been submitting their personal stories, their sorrows and joys, 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.

## 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 Alcoholics Anonymous. Grapevine publishes stories for special departments such as Emotional Sobriety, Sponsorship, Newcomers, Youth Enjoying Sobriety, Old-Timers and Home Group, as well as articles about the Steps and Traditions, 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 THE MAGAZINE 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

The magazine publishes work of different lengths, from snappy one-liners and one-paragraph anecdotes to five- or six-page articles. Suggested manuscript length is three to seven 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 the first of November, in time to be mailed to subscribers by the cover date. As a result, a Christmas-themed article mailed to Grapevine in November would arrive after the December issue is already

printed. (It might, however, be saved for the following December.)

## SUBMITTING ARTICLES, LETTERS AND HUMOR

Email submissions to [gveditorial@aagrapevine.org](mailto:gveditorial@aagrapevine.org); or mail to Grapevine, Editorial Dept., 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. If your work is fairly short, the simplest way to submit it is within the body of your email. However, if you wish to attach a file to your email, please save the document in Word or simple text. Include your full name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep a copy of your work because manuscripts cannot be returned.

## CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND CARTOONS

Grapevine uses members' photographs, line drawings and paintings when they relate to specific articles; photos 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, announced in the fall.

We also are interested in working with artists who can create professional-quality images from assigned story lines.

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ART

Email art, or send links to a website displaying your art, to [gveditorial@aagrapevine.org](mailto:gveditorial@aagrapevine.org); or send via regular mail to Editorial Department, Grapevine, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115.

## FORMAT

**IF WALLS COULD TALK:** Photos must be sent as high resolution (300 dpi) jpgs. You can also mail hard copy prints.

**ALL OTHER ART:** Email a link displaying your art or send low resolution (72 dpi) jpgs. The more pictures we have to browse through, the better. If we select one of your pieces, we will then ask you to send a high resolution (300 dpi) version. You can also mail hard copy prints.

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 group's name and location.



*Grapevine uses members' photographs, line drawings and paintings.*

**AAGRAPEVINE, Inc.**

# **GRAPEVINE EDITORIAL POLICY**

Grapevine, often called "Our meeting in print," publishes articles that reflect the full diversity of experience and opinion found within the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. No one viewpoint or philosophy dominates its pages, and in determining the editorial content, the editors rely on the principles of the Twelve Traditions.

The heart of Grapevine is in the shared experience of individual AA members working the AA program and applying the spiritual principles of the Twelve Steps. Yet what works for one individual or AA group may not always work for another. For this reason, from month to month, articles may be published that appear to contradict one another. Seeking neither to gloss over difficult issues, nor to present such issues in a harmful or contentious manner, Grapevine tries to embody the widest possible view of the AA Fellowship.

The Charter of the General Service Conference guarantees the Grapevine editor's right to accept or reject material for publication. Grapevine staff members evaluate articles and, while some editing is done for purposes of clarity, styling and length, the editors encourage all writers to express their own experience in their own unique way.

Articles are not intended to be statements of AA policy, nor does publication of any article constitute endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or Grapevine. Articles are invited, although no payment can be made nor can material be returned.