

Carrying the Message and Working with Professionals



“Our Twelfth Step – carrying the message – is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principle aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society for alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven’t been given the truth may die.”

The A.A. Service Manual, “A.A.’s Legacy of Service”

I AM RESPONSIBLE...

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A. A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

The A.A. Preamble

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Just what is the “message”?

The twelfth step of AA teaches us to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to other alcoholics. In this case "the message" is simple, but powerful. If you are an alcoholic, and are willing to follow some simple guidelines, you don't have to drink ever again.

For many "hopeless" alcoholics around the world this message is literally a lifeline that has the potential to save their lives, restore them to sanity, and allow them to be happy, joyous and free.

Carrying the Message to Professionals and Others



Working with your doctor,
probation officer, lawyer
or priest is another way to
carry the message.

Carry the Message

to those in contact with alcoholics.

Why?

“You can provide information about A.A. to those who have contact with alcoholics through their profession. When you empower them with correct information about A.A., they can carry the message of A.A. to suffering alcoholics that we may never be able to reach.”

“It is important to remember that contact with professionals – like everything else in A.A. – is based on personal contact.”

Pg 6 – Cooperation with the Professional Community Workbook

Non-A.A. Professionals are people:

- who are not alcoholic.
- whose careers may not be directly related to alcoholism.
- whose clients could be alcoholics in need of A.A.’s solution.

Carrying the message to these professionals is another way of doing 12th step work.

Who?

Working with others includes:

- Your Doctor
- Your Probation Officer
- Your Priest, Rabbi, Minister
- Your Lawyer
- Any professional you currently know and who provides you services.

Suggestions:

- 1 year of sobriety
- Men work with Men – Women work with Women
- Read Pamphlet Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings
- Re-read 44 Questions pamphlet

How?

- Provide Meeting Schedules.
- Provide a Big Book.
- Provide the A.A. Fact Sheet.
- Provide Literature.
 - o Information on Alcoholics Anonymous (White Tri-fold F-2)
 - o If You Are a Professional, A.A. Wants to Work With You(Pamphlet P-46)
 - o How A.A. Members work with Professionals(Pamphlet P-29)
 - o Members of the Clergy ask about A.A. (Pamphlet P-27)
 - o AA as a Resource for the Health Care Professional(Pamphlet P-23)
 - o A Message to Correctional Professionals (Pamphlet P-20)
- Meet for coffee.
- Make yourself available to answer questions about A.A.
- Make yourself available to talk to other clients that may be alcoholic.
- Provide a copy of A.A. Newsletter for Professionals (available at www.aa.org).
- Take the professional to an open meeting.