

Events, Announcements and News

ANONYMITY BREAK WITH THE PRESS INFORMATION

HEARTLAND INTERGROUP

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Information received in reference to Anonymity from GSO

Anonymity Break

Hello District 1,

Unfortunately there was an anonymity break at level of public media in District 1. After it was brought to the attention of our Area 15 Delegate Shirley, she and our Area 15 Chairperson Cary, they decided everyone would benefit from a reminder that in keeping with Tradition 12, we as individuals are to remain anonymous at the level of press, radio and films. Attached to this email is an Anonymity Letter to the Media and the A.A. Anonymity card to be read at meetings. You can click on the blue box attached to this email or the link in the email shown below to access the anonymity information.

Please share these two A.A. documents at your Home Group, with your sponsees and consider suggesting the topic of anonymity at discussion meetings.

Anonymity Letter to Media from the
General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

From time to time we write our friends in the media to thank them for helping us observe our long-standing tradition of anonymity for members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

First, let us express our deep gratitude to you. From the beginning of A.A. in 1935, its members have recognized that word-of-mouth is not sufficient by itself to carry the program's message of hope and recovery to the many people still suffering from alcoholism. The media has been a vital part of this effort, and today we estimate that there are more than 2 million successfully recovering members of Alcoholics Anonymous in more than 180 countries.

Second, we respectfully request that you continue to cooperate with us in maintaining the anonymity of A.A. members. The principle of anonymity is a basic tenet of our fellowship. Those who are reluctant to seek our help may overcome their fear if they are confident that their anonymity will be respected. In addition, and perhaps less understood, our tradition of anonymity acts as a restraint on A.A. members, reminding us that we are a program of principles, not personalities, and that no individual A.A. member may presume to act as a spokesman or leader of our fellowship. If an A.A. member is identified in the media, we ask that you please use first names only (e.g., Bob S. or Alice F.) and that you not use photographs or electronic images in which members' faces may be recognized.

Again, we thank you for your continued cooperation. Those who wish to know more about our fellowship are welcome to visit the "[Press/Media](#)" section of [aa.org](#). We hope you will take a moment to watch a [brief video](#) on [why anonymity remains a vital principle in Alcoholics Anonymous](#).

Our fellowship does not comment on matters of public controversy, but we are happy to provide information about [A.A.](#) to anyone who seeks it.

Sincerely,

Public Information Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous

Contact: publicinfo@aa.org

A.A. ANONYMITY

(Announcement for reading at meetings open to the public)

There may be some here who are not familiar with our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level:

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."

Thus, we respectfully ask that A.A. speakers and A.A. members not be photographed, videotaped, or identified by full name on audiotapes or in any published or broadcast reports of our meetings, including those reports on the Internet or other new media technologies.

The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that A.A. principles come before personalities.

<https://www.heartlandintergroup.org/donate/>

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Any questions can be emailed to the office manager at:

[*officemanager@heartlandintergroup.org](mailto:officemanager@heartlandintergroup.org)

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