



Take the Penn St. Reading exit off of 422. Follow Penn St. to 6th St. Turn Left on 6th St. and follow two blocks to Walnut St. The hospital is at 6th and Walnut. Turn right onto Walnut St. and there is a parking lot across from Easy Does It clubhouse. The unit is located on the third floor. Enter the hospital through the door at Reed and Walnut. Go to the third floor and follow the signs for the MHU.

Monday, _____, 20__ 7:30PM.

St. Joseph's Hospital Mental Health Unit

I am responsible...
When anyone, anywhere,
Reaches out for help,
I want the hand of AA
Always to be there.
And for that,
I AM RESPONSIBLE

Reading-Berks Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous

Twelfth-Step Opportunity

1. Try to get someone else from your homegroup or...
2. Call Robin L. Institutions Chairperson at 484-721-3619 or...
3. Call any other Intergroup officer or...
4. If it is very short notice, please call the unit and let them know you won't be there. 610-816-2720

6. Absolute dependability.... We try to be completely reliable, never letting weather, a bad mood, some personal event, or anything else interfere with keeping our word. (We almost never let such things interfere with our drinking, did we?) What people think of A.A. depends on us. If we are reliable, then A.A. seems so. If we are not, it makes A.A. look bad. ... Since A.A.'s public relations policy is based on attraction, not promotion, that leaves it up to us to make the A.A. way of life look attractive.

5. Ability to follow directions.... First, the ultimate authority for this A.A. work is, of course, the group conscience of all A.A.s. Sometimes, for the good of A.A. and for the good of those we are trying to help, we as individuals have to do things differently from the way we might ourselves like. Second, the professional treatment facility is in charge of its patients or clients and is responsible for them. If A.A. members do not conform in every way to the rules and regulations of the facility, it has a perfect right to keep A.A. members out.

4. Freedom from vanity.... We simply put the message in front of the alcoholic in treatment. What the alcoholic does with it is not our legitimate business. He or she may flush it away, or ignore it, or use it well in recovery. The alcoholic needs to be free to choose without our getting vain if the message is used, or angry or discouraged if it is ignored.

3. A common sense approach.... Our Fellowship of amateurs firmly resists getting organized, as A.A.s know... But professional treatment facilities have to be well organized to do their job and to meet various legal requirements. Their personnel often have to be professionally trained if the agency is to be properly licensed... They do not take their duties lightly, nor do they appreciate jokes at their expense. Alcoholism is a grave illness. Our A.A. message of hope, experience, and strength is not to be treated lightly either. ...

2. Personal experience of alcoholism and recovery. This, of course, is the chief, and unique, qualification we have. You do not need to have been hospitalized yourself to carry the message into a treatment facility. No more than you need a prison record and unique, qualification we have. You do not need to have been hospitalized yourself to carry the message into a correctional institution. What is important to share is the pain we once felt and the joy in recovery we now feel.

1. Some good sobriety. For exactly how long, nobody can say. ... If you have all the other qualifications, it may not be very important how many A.A. anniversaries you have had. Ask some longer-sober members about it.

What qualifications should an A.A. member have to carry the message to treatment facilities?

Note: This is an abridged version of the suggestions found in "AA in Treatment Facilities", pg 10-13. Please reference the pamphlet, or our website, for the full version.
http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/speaking_commitment.htm

7. Broad knowledge of A.A. ... To be the best possible message-carrier, it helps to know all the local groups and lots of different members, of many sorts. ... In addition, a thorough knowledge of A.A. literature helps. It would be good to know what A.A. material would be helpful to a potential member who may be very different from you. ... The deeper and broader our understanding of all aspects of our Fellowship (including all three of our legacies: Recovery, Unity, and Service), the more we have to offer the troubled newcomer.

8. Ability to stick to our own business. ... We carry our own personal message to patients in a treatment facility, not the professional staff. We have no business criticizing any professional agency or person, or telling them how to treat or not to treat alcoholics. Those are not A.A. purposes. ... We have had the personal experience of alcoholism, which we now share, along with what we have learned about recovery. Our suffering and the recovery we now enjoy can give valuable hope to other still-suffering alcoholics. More than that -giving it away freely, without any thought of reward, strengthens our own sobriety. With Permission: AA in Treatment Facilities, pg 10-13 Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

Other Suggestions

- 1- Arrive on time, parking in designated areas.
- 2- Dress appropriately.
- 3- Refrain from using obscene or inflammatory language.
- 4- Be polite and respectful.
- 5- Remember that you represent A. A. and not other Fellowships, introduce yourself accordingly.
- 6- We share, in a general way, what we used to be like, what happened and what we are like now.
- 7- We present our experience, strength and hope, not our opinions or social commentary
- 8- If possible, hang around after the meeting to talk with anyone that wishes to speak with you.