



From Penn Ave in West Reading, turn North onto 5th Ave. Proceed to the traffic circle and bear right with traffic. Continue 1/3rd of the way around the circle and make a right on Buttonwood Street. The D&A Center is on your left at 401 Buttonwood St. See the "X" on the map below.

Thursday, _____, 20__ 8PM.

Reading Hospital
Drug and Alcohol Rehab Unit
(401 Buttonwood Street, West Reading PA)

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. 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.

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 twelfth-step someone in a treatment facility. No more than you need a prison record 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.

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. ...

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

- 1. Try to get someone else from your hometown or ...
- 2. Call True P., the Institutions Chairperson at 484-651-0600 or ...
- 3. Call any other Intergroup officer or ...
- 4. If it is very short notice, please call the center and let them know you won't be there. 610-988-8186